



Fundraising fun in Porthcawl.
(SEE PAGES 6 AND 7 FOR MORE).

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Bridgend & Porthcawl GEM



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THURSDAY, JANUARY 13TH, 2011

BYT juniors tell a scary Christmas tale

GHOSTS, SCROOGE AND THE MUPPETS!

RIGHT:
The young actors who have joined the Bridgend Youth Theatre (BYT) recently performed their Christmas show at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl. They offered a mix of Yuletide stories, mixing up the story of Scrooge with popular characters – including Kermit and Miss Piggy!

(Photograph by Malcolm Nugent. For more images, turn to page 3).



Porthcawl council faces a 'protest' candidate in Newton ward by-election

A BY-ELECTION is on the cards for Porthcawl – after 10 electors in the Newton ward asked for a poll.

And a leading activist in the town who has challenged the way in which

EXCLUSIVE
by JAYNE ISAAC

the Porthcawl regeneration has been handled is considering standing.

The vacancy on the town council was caused by the death of Coun Clive Hare. The seat was held by the Conservatives, but The GEM understands that holding a by-election could cost up to £4,000.

The whole council comes up for election next year in any case.

However, the request for a by-election means that nominations will now be invited from people interested in standing – and if more than one is received, there will be a poll.

The date will be March 3, which is the date chosen for the referendum taking place across Wales into whether or not the Welsh Assembly should be given extra powers. This could reduce the cost to the town council, as the polling stations in Newton would be manned, anyway.

Graham Walter, who lives in Mackworth Road, has told The GEM that he was one of the people who got the 10 signatures needed from Newton voters to call an election.

"I was asked by people who live in Newton to get the signatures necessary and I helped with that," he said.

"I have also been approached by a number of people in the ward and asked to stand as an independent. I have had a lot of encouragement from residents."

Mr Walter was "think-

School Pool now available for community use



It has been well publicised that the Porthcawl area has no Council swimming pool, although there is a definite demand for a facility of this nature. Porthcawl Comprehensive School has recently secured a community focused schools bid that will allow the community of Porthcawl an opportunity to use the school swimming pool.

The pool is now available for hire during the evenings (5pm – 8.30pm) for associative groups, community groups, commercial groups or simply a group of friends looking for a facility to use to do

some leisurely swimming. Local lifeguards have been employed to supervise these bookings and provide a controlled environment for all types of people to exercise, regardless of age or physical capability.

Hire prices start at £30 per hour which includes a qualified lifeguard. An associative group can book for a block of 10 weeks (term time only) and pay no VAT saving 20%. If there is any organisation, group, business or group of individuals who are interested in hiring the pool, contact Porthcawl Comprehensive School on 01656 774100.

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Drugs habit led to spate of six town burglaries

AFTER becoming involved with drugs, a young man with no previous convictions, and from a highly-respected family, carried out six burglaries in the Maesteg area, it was stated at Cardiff Crown Court.

Ross James (18) of Maesteg, was sent to a Young Offender institution for 10 months.

He admitted two charges of burglary and asked for a further four charges to be taken into consideration.

He was told by Judge Philip Richards that "these were very serious offences. Heaven knows how much misery you caused to the occupants of those homes.

"I accept that things were difficult for you, but what you did was wholly unacceptable. I have a great deal of sympathy for your parents."

His counsel, Ruth Smith, said James had got himself into a "vicious circle" and was spending up to £50 a day on drugs.

Richard Ace, prosecuting, said that on September 28, James broke into a house in Greenfield Terrace,

Report by
AJ SICLUNA

Llangynwyd, searched six rooms and stole property worth £1,250.

On October 7, he broke into a house in Millview Estate, Maesteg, and stole jewellery of sentimental value and other items worth £600.

However, he left behind a DNA sample and was later arrested and made full admission. He told the police he had no money and looked for houses to burgle.

He also said he wanted to help the police and showed them four other properties in Maesteg which he had burgled.

Since being arrested, said Miss Smith, he had

not committed any further offences.

"He comes from a respected family and this is for them an alien experience. They are devastated but strongly support him."

At the time, she said, James was having difficulties with his life, including taking drugs.

Last year, a long-term relationship broke up, his best friend was killed in a motorcycle accident, he lost his job and he had problems with dyslexia.

"It was a significant time in his life and he was left without focus."

She said no gratuitous damage was caused at the houses, James had stopped taking drugs and had received counselling.

Police probe theft of £10,000 equipment

POLICE in Bridgend are investigating the theft of £10,000 of digital surveying equipment from an Isuzu Rodeo pick-up truck between 8am and 11am on Thursday, January 6, when the vehicle was parked on Fairplace Close, Bridgend.

The "Topcon 800A", is specialist hi-tech surveying equipment, with little or no use to anyone outside the industry, a spokesman reported.

Police are appealing for information. Contact Bridgend Neighbourhood Inspector Steve Evans at Bridgend Police Station on 101, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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'Yes to embrace future challenges for Wales!'

CAMPAIGNERS from Bridgend and Ogmore who want more powers for the National Assembly, are calling for laws that only affect Wales to be made in Wales.

The local Yes for Wales campaign for Bridgend and Ogmore has generated support from all political parties and communities across the county borough, urging people to give the National Assembly a stronger voice when they vote in the referendum on March 3.

Campaigners say a Yes vote will streamline the system, so instead of asking permission from Westminster to pass laws that

only apply in Wales, Assembly Members can use all their time and energy making things better for Welsh communities.

Voting Yes is about looking forward not back. A Yes vote in the referendum in March will enable our Assembly Members to ensure that laws that affect only Wales are made in Wales.

We need a Yes vote to ensure that Wales is ready to embrace the challenges of the future, a country that is able to hold its head high and act on the international stage, as it did in hosting the recent Ryder Cup.

The choice is between a more confident Wales where young people don't need to leave their communities in search of jobs, or a dependency culture where we

look to others for solutions to our problems.

The local campaign is fully established and has begun canvassing. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 20, at 7.30pm at the Garth Senior Citizen's Hall, Bridgend Road Garth, Maesteg. Yes Campaign chairman and Welsh Rugby Union chief executive, Roger Lewis will be at the meeting.

Everyone supportive of further law making powers are welcome to attend regardless of which political party they support. For more information contact tim_tom79@hotmail.com

Tim Thomas
(Local Yes for Wales coordinator and Plaid candidate for Bridgend)

'Free parking the answer to town traffic problems'

WE have campaigned for the past few years for residents' parking or controlled parking zones, in the west ward of Maesteg, Llynfi Road, St Michael's Road and Upper Street, among others.

We have now received a letter from the Labour-led county council, that they will not look at this issue of parking; for the number of residents who have contacted me, this is no help whatsoever to those who are suffering parking chaos.

Disabled residents, and families with children, who are unable to park their vehicles anywhere near their homes, for which they are paying council tax find it is not always possible to park off road, with garages and driveways being obstructed.

Fayre raises £1,000

NOTTAGE Primary School in Porthcawl held a successful Christmas fayre; with numerous stalls, a special story-telling Santa, and the usual tombola, raffle and hotdogs.

They raised just over £1,000 and Barclays Bank in John Street, Porthcawl are again match funding the raffle, donating £750.

There are vehicles being parked fully on pavements, causing problems to pedestrians, disabled people and the visually-impaired.

Maesteg loading bays, restricted bays, zebra crossings and Talbot Street are full of vehicles all day and late into the evenings, causing problems to the free flow of traffic.

During the recent bad weather of snow and ice, the top deck to the free car park was closed off by a barrier, put there by the county council. They tell me that due to health and safety reasons, the side streets were chock-a-block with parked vehicles.

The traffic wardens are no longer in existence, so there is no enforcement, even if we could get parking for residents only.

However, it is felt that these problems would greatly ease if non-residents and visitors could use the FREE car parks in Maesteg town.

Ian Jones
(Welsh Liberal Democrats, Maesteg town Councillor (West ward))

Council ponders Wildmill 'park and ride' plan

TALKS have been under way between Network Rail and Bridgend planners over the future of land alongside the railway line at Wildmill.

Bridgend Town Council has been told by John Duddridge, group manager for transport and engineering, that when the new railway halt was provided at Wildmill as part of the Maesteg Line development, it was intended long term to provide a park and ride car park on land adjacent to the station.

In a planning brief signed at the time between the former Ogwr Borough Council and the British Railways Property Board, the land around the station plus the bridge and the former Coity sidings were part of a development plan drawn up for the sale of the land.

A requirement was included for the purchasers to provide an area of land by the station for a car park and bus turning circle to be created.

But the privatisation of the railway network, followed by Railtrack entering administration, led to delays in the land being marketed.

When Network Rail, which succeeded Railtrack, did put the site on the market, there was little interest because the inclusion of the redundant railway bridge and access difficulties made it not economically attractive.

Meetings have been held more recently between agents acting for Network Rail and officers from the planning department.

Network Rail want to change the status of the site in the new Local Development Plan to one that has employment and housing uses. This scheme would include a park and ride facility.

A masterplan is currently being prepared and a traffic impact assessment is also to be provided to assess the junction with Coity Road.

Bridgend Town Council decided to note the report at this stage.

Action planned over car park boy racer problem

BOY racers may soon be placed out of bounds at a Bridgend car park.

Bridgend Town Council complained about youngsters driving at speed around the Rhiw multi-storey car park at night.

John Duddridge, group manager for BCBC transportation and engineering, said that they were aware of the nuisance caused in the evenings and it

was intended to seek funding to enable them to install equipment which would prevent vehicles from entering the car park after 7pm, while allowing cars inside to exit.

However, it is unlikely that the funding will be available for this financial year.

The problem of rough sleepers using the top floors will also be investigated.

Purple crocus is the symbol of Rotary's fight against polio

ABOVE: Bill Stubbs, the Porthcawl Rotary president, Rotary members and school staff after the bulbs were planted.

THE ROTARY CLUB OF Porthcawl has bought 2,500 purple crocus bulbs – the symbol of the charities fight to eradicate polio.

The club is aiming to plant the bulbs at various locations around Porthcawl, so that they

will flower close to February 23, Rotary's 'Thanks for Life' day.

Pupils at St John's School, Porthcawl, did their bit recently, getting the bulbs planted before the snows came.

Rotary has succeeded in eradicating polio from most parts of the world, but the

fundraising campaign is continuing so that the remaining pockets can be tackled.

The significance of the colour purple is that in the Third World, when a child is immunised, one finger is marked with purple dye.

HEATING WAS NOT SWITCHED OFF AT HOSPITAL – spokesman

THE ABERTAWE BRO MORGANNWG HOSPITAL BOARD has again denied

by JAYNE ISAAC

off anywhere in the hospital. The statement went on: "This winter we have been experiencing severely low temperatures with December 2010 having the lowest temperatures on record."

Last week, The GEM reported that serious flooding took place because of a leak in the heating system in the short stay unit, Oasis Restaurant and the Bridgend Clinic, which is the private wing of the hospital.

A spokesman said that the heating had not been switched

fore caused equipment to malfunction. This is very unfortunate and staff are working hard to make sure the effect on patients is kept to a minimum.

Maintenance staff are also working very hard to repair the damage and replace the malfunctioning equipment."

The hospital has been hit by three severe leaks of water caused, the board states, by malfunctioning equipment.

Staff have claimed that heating has been switched off on all three occasions, but the board has denied this claim three times.

Councillors hit out at the Aerospace factory closure

by JAYNE ISAAC

MAESTEG COUNCILLORS have condemned the projected closure of the Gardner Aerospace Factory in the town.

over the years and further help was offered to retain the factory in Maesteg.

WAG officials have met the company's president to close within the next 12 months or so, employs 69 people manufacturing components for the aerospace industry. For many years, the firm traded as Midcast and has been in the town for 40 years.

It is being closed so that production can transfer to another factory owned by the company in Basildon.

Maesteg Town Council has been liaising with Ogmore AM Janice Gregory over the closure and she has been lobbying Ieuan Wyn Jones, minister for Economy and transport. The company has received WAG support

town that Tesco is looking to take over the factory site as it backs onto its store. Rumours indicate that the company

would wish to build a petrol filling station on the site.

The town clerk has been instructed to make enquiries with Tesco about this rumour.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JANUARY 20)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the Barry coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20–25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
13 Thur	11.47	7.7		
14 Fri	00.23	7.5	13.03	7.4
15 Sat	01.36	7.4	14.24	7.4
16 Sun	02.57	7.6	15.30	7.8
17 Mon	04.07	8.1	16.28	8.4
18 Tues	05.01	8.7	17.27	8.9
19 Wed	05.48	9.3	18.12	9.4
20 Thur	06.32	9.8	19.02	9.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

Young actors step into the spotlight as the Grand Pavilion hosts a sparkling weekend

**PHOTOGRAPHS by
MALCOLM NUGENT**

PORTHCAWL'S Grand Pavilion played host to an enormous amount of local talent last weekend, when three shows, all connected to the Bridgend Youth Theatre (BYT) took to the stage.

On Sunday afternoon, the young BYT team (up to 11 years) stepped out to perform, and they were followed in the evening by the 'senior juniors' (11-14) and the BYT seniors.

The two shows had originally been scheduled for December in Maesteg Town Hall, but had had to be postponed.

The young ones performed a mix of seasonal songs and sketches on a Christmas theme, combining Scrooge and the Muppets.

The evening show gave BYT members a chance to show off a range of skills, with comedy sketches, songs and some extended dance numbers.

The show started with the 'All That Jazz' opening from *Chicago*, and kept the audience highly entertained.

However, as a reminder of what can be achieved by the youth theatre, the Saturday night featured a terrific show staged by 'old boys and girls' as a fundraiser for Nicky Phillips, who is going to the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama to study musical theatre.

The stunningly high standard of the show

said more about the BYT and its legacy than anything else could. (See next week's GEM for a review of the evening).

Nicky, of course, has been a tutor with the youth theatre juniors for the past few years, and was the director of the Sunday afternoon show. (All pictures on this page are from this show).



Rugby player punched door supervisor

A CLUB door supervisor suffered a nose injury which has resulted in "a permanent blemish", after being attacked – it was stated at Cardiff Crown Court.

The man responsible, Owen Watkins (22) of Maesteg, who plays for the town's rugby team,

by AJ SICLUNA

was sentenced to six months imprisonment, suspended for two years, ordered to carry out 150 hours unpaid work, and to pay his victim £500 compensation plus prosecution costs of £350.

Watkins pleaded guilty to causing David Thomas actual bodily

harm. Prosecutor Tony Trigg said his victim was a door supervisor at the York Bar, Bridgend.

At 3am on August 22, Watkins turned up and was denied entry under the terms of the club's licence.

He became aggressive, said he wanted to see his girlfriend, and put his foot in the door. Watkins then punched Mr Thomas on the nose.

He suffered a deviation of the septum injury.

When arrested, Watkins said he was drunk, apologised and said he was embarrassed.

His counsel, Kevin Seal, said: "It is a tragedy for him to appear before the court.

"Clearly, he had had too much to drink and does not normally behave like this. He is a respected, hardworking individual. It was, for him, a very expensive night out."

Judge Philip Richards said: "Mr Thomas received an unpleasant injury which has caused a permanent blemish.

"Drinking can be a comfort, but it can lead normally sensible men into serious misconduct.

"Moderate your intake and ensure you can handle yourself in future."

Judge Philip Richards said: "You were persistently violent to a man who had done nothing wrong. It was a very unpleasant experience for your victim."

AJ SICLUNA

Man jailed after pizza argument

WHEN a man refused to hand over a pizza he had bought minutes before, he was given a beating as he walked home.

Cardiff Crown Court heard that Lee Burlingham was punched and chased.

Gavin Alford (28) of Blaengarw, was sentenced to 10 months' imprisonment, after he admitted causing Mr Burlingham actual bodily harm.

Prosecutor Sian Phillips said that on September 18, Mr Burlingham had a drink in Bridgend town centre and bought himself a pizza.

Passing the Angel public house, he saw Alford and a woman, and she shouted at him for a slice of the pizza.

He refused. He was followed up Newcastle

Hill and Alford then "stormed" behind him, kicked the pizza out of his hand and swung punches at him.

Mr Burlingham said he appeared to "go crazy".

He was arrested at the scene and claimed the victim attacked him.

The court heard that Alford had convictions for causing actual bodily harm, threatening behaviour, burglary and shoplifting.

His solicitor, David Sedgewick, pointed out that he had been in custody for 108 days.

"He has recently kicked a drink problem. At the time of the incident, he took part in a stupid argument."

Judge Philip Richards said: "You were persistently violent to a man who had done nothing wrong. It was a very unpleasant experience for your victim."

AJ SICLUNA

Charity sale

THE NCT Vale and Valleys branch will hold a nearly new sale at Cowbridge Leisure Centre, The Broadshoar, Cowbridge, on Saturday, March 5 at 2pm-3.30pm.

Entrance/suggested donation £1/family. Baby/children's clothes, toys, equipment (eg prams) and maternity wear. Sellers contact Julie on 01656 662564 to

News from the Porthcawl Lions

"WE were very sorry that we had to cancel the Boxing Day fun run due to the weather conditions," said Lions president Ralph Anslow.

"However, the good news is that it's on again for Sunday, February 27, starting at 10am at the Hi Tide.

"This 38-furlong event has a world record of 24 minutes, 49 seconds which could well be broken this year," commented Lion Rhys Lewis, the main organiser, who can be contacted

In aid of The National Childbirth Trust Vale and Valleys branch (formerly Bridgend, Cowbridge and Llantwit Major branch), to help train two breastfeeding counsellors and two antenatal teachers.

Who wants to build what and where in the borough?

Caeau Development Trust, Blaenllynfi School, Grosvenor Terrace, Caeau, Maesteg – Land opposite 14-25 North Street, Caeau – Create a market garden including hard standing, poly tunnels, fencing and a shop unit and temporary consent for storage containers.

Mr G Davies – Brynmynach Farm, Llan Road, Maesteg – Erect a storage facility for farm machinery and

food storage with animal handling pens.

Mr P Jones – 9 Fulmar Road, Porthcawl – Two storey extension to front elevation for porch and bedroom above, rear dormer, single storey sun room with rear exit to

Mr P Gregory – Llynfi Lodge, 8 Llynfi Road, Maesteg – Convert and extend existing res property to form 2 no. dwellings and 4 no. flats with assoc parking and landscaping.

Mrs P Hayes – Layby opp old Llynfi power station, Maesteg Road, Coytahen, Bridgend – Relax condition 2 of consent P/04/1660/RLX to extend the time period to continue trading.

BCBC Communities Directorate – Land between Protheroe Street and Church Street, Maesteg – Construct concrete stepped access on land that is not a public right of way or highway.

Work under way on Nant Cefn Glas flood measures

REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC

WORK on designing flood alleviation measures for the Nant Cefn Glas in Bridgend, is well under way, Bridgend town councillors have heard.

Councillor David Unwin, who is also a borough member for Newcastle, told town councillors that he had received a letter from Glyn Jenkins, who is BCBC's acting group manager for highways and fleet.

Mr Jenkins reported that the scheme arose out of studies carried out in 2002 across the whole borough, as part of the Welsh Assembly Government's exercise to look at flooding issues throughout Wales. This would enable them to prioritise grant aid and funding. A project appraisal was carried out and sent to WAG in 2007.

The scheme proposes work to increase the capacity of the watercourse in some areas, including enlarging culverted sections beneath highways, and providing delaying ponds and control measures to restrict flows upstream.

A scheme to replace the Greenfields Avenue culvert in advance of the main scheme is now being prepared and costed and a separate bid for grant funding will be made.

It is hoped to do this work in the new financial year starting April 2011.

The rest of the scheme will be done when further funding is available.

The cost of the scheme was estimated at £1.4m in 2007 and work would be phased in over five years.

The appraisal was accepted by WAG and the scheme is currently awaiting the allocation of grant aid. Once that is done, it can go into the council's capital programme.

The scheme was reviewed in 2009 to ensure that the design is updated to current standards, especially with regard to the proposed replacement of a section of culvert at Greenfields Avenue.

At the moment, WAG is reviewing the way in which future funding of such scheme is made, in the light of new laws and regulations which arose from a review of severe national flooding in 2007.

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AN AM CALLS FOR OGMORE VOTE TO BE MADE OFFICIAL

by PHILIP IRWIN

A ROW is still simmering after a Vale Council planning committee meeting where councillors voted to turn down a scheme to build houses at Ogmore-by-Sea.

At the December meeting, an application by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) to build houses on the now-disused Ogmore Centre Trust was turned down by members – but that refusal was not recorded in the minutes.

The Vale Council planning chief, Rob Thomas, said that while members voted against approval of the application, which was being recommended by officers, the matter was deferred to enable members to further consider the application and to come up with suggestions about why it should be refused.

Mr Thomas said that it would be deferred until February's planning committee meeting.

An attempt at a January planning meeting last Thursday (January 6) to have the



ABOVE: Vale AM Jane Hutt with Ogmore resident Len Williams.

vote recorded officially did not succeed.

Now, Vale AM Jane Hutt has entered the debate.

She said: "'I have already raised this matter with the Welsh Assembly Government and the Public Services Ombudsman.

"I have had a large number of representations from constituents who attended the planning meeting on December 16, and witnessed a vote taking place with a clear majority voting against the housing development to replace the Ogmore Centre."

She continued: "This vote should have been recorded in the minutes and I was extremely dis-

turbed to hear that this was not rectified on January 6 at the planning committee.

"I have supported the local community council and residents in their valid objections to the development, and these were backed by the majority of councillors on the planning committee."

The failure to get planning permission is a blow to BCBC's finances. Apart from missing out on the cash to be banked by selling the land to developers, the council still faces a bill of around £7,000 per month to maintain security on the existing buildings at the Ogmore Centre.

Festive treats and a lost in the jungle talk...

MERTHYR MAWR WI NEWS

spent nine months working in Paraguay as part of the pre school educational project which was set up by the Baptist Missionary Service at Colwinston church and holding their Christmas dinner.

A member of Hope Baptist Church, she was sponsored to train girls in Paraguay to work with pre school education.

Using a large selection of slides, she described the harsh environment of a country

with a history of warfare and an environment of jungle and desert.

She painted a picture of hard and poor living conditions and of tribes that have no contact with the outside world.

Joan Kelly gave the thanks. The next meeting will be on February 2 at Ewenny Community Hall.

FIONA CATER

Parking call at Grove Street bay

RESIDENTS parking in the new bay created at Nantyffyllon, are parking diagonally instead of alongside the kerb, town councillors have been told.

At the January meeting, Margaret Batten welcomed Rosemary Williams, the speaker for the evening, whose topic was 'Lost in the Jungle'. Mrs Williams had

Councillors were told that parking is being done chevron style with the rear of vehicles jutting out into the road and there are fears that a vehicle could be struck by passing traffic.

Nantyffyllon members have now asked for the parking bay to be marked correctly so that residents realise that they should park alongside the kerb.

They also said that the bay was shorter than was agreed at a site meeting with BCBC, and does not provide as many parking bays as was agreed.

A meeting is to be held with BCBC to discuss the project.

LIONS' CHARITY BOOK FAIR

BRIDGEND Lions are busily preparing for their 17th charity book fair at Bridgend YMCA on March 4-6.

Spokesman Henry Trimlett said: "As always, we rely on the generosity of people in the Bridgend area who donate books on almost every subject under the sun." Donations can be handed in at YMCA, Angel Street, Bridgend (weekdays from 9am to 5pm). Arrangements can be made for larger quantities to be collected (Bridgend area only) on 0845 833 9582 or email bookfair@bridgendlions.org.uk.

A RUDGE (Hon sec)

ANSWERS. 1. Who is M74

2. October Queen

3. Fred Couples

4. M74

MACMILLAN CHARITY IS GIVEN £3,000 BOOST BY PORTHCAWL FUNDRAISERS



ABOVE: The Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Mary Emment-Lewis, outside the YMCA in John Street with an Elvis and a GI Elvis (Dave Smith) and her consort, Bobbie Lewis



ABOVE: Coun Mary Emment-Lewis and consort Bobbie Lewis, at Trinity Church, Porthcawl, for the Macmillan World Wide Coffee Morning.

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

A PROMINENT local cancer treatment charity has been counting the funds raised in Porthcawl by different groups in recent months – and it totted up to more than £3,000!

Macmillan World Coffee Mornings were held in Porthcawl at the Principality Building Society, the YMCA (by Porthcawl Lions), and at Trinity Church with Macmillan volunteers from the Bridgend committee.

There was also a bucket collection at the 2010 Elvis Festival by students from Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

The Principality event raised £202.67, while the Lions netted £800 which the organisation topped up to £1,000.

The Macmillan volunteers at Trinity Church raised £911, while the comprehensive school students' efforts at the Elvis Festival contributed £912.14.



ABOVE: The Lions' Macmillan World Wide Coffee Morning team in the YMCA.

LEFT: Lisa Perrie and Jean Moxham of the Principality, serving coffee to a customer.



ABOVE: Porthcawl Comprehensive School students were out collecting during the town's Elvis Festival.



ABOVE: The mayor and consort launching the Macmillan World Wide Coffee Morning at the Principality, John Street.

Sports pavilion cleaning plans to save £100,000 are questioned

PLANS to save money by introducing mobile pavilion cleaners and making user clubs responsible for opening and closing the buildings, have been questioned by councillors.

Among the cuts proposed in the draft budget for the communities directorate is one to save £100,000 in the new financial year starting in April by bringing in a once-a-week clean at sports pavilions by mobile cleaners.

Clubs and users would become key holders and would have to open up and close the pavilions and would also have to carry out 'limited cleaning' in between visits from BCBC staff. But the research and

evaluation panel, which has scrutinised the budget, regarded this proposals as 'high risk' and questioned whether the proposal was achievable.

It asked for more information about the costs involved and potential savings.

The community renewal and environment scrutiny committee discussed the budget at its meeting on Monday.

Other concerns raised by the panel include:

- Plans to reduce the number of cuts each year to urban highway grass verges in order to ensure that each verge gets the same number of cuts. This proposal is expected to save £50,000 in 2011 and £70,000 in 2012.

- Plans to reduce spending on ceme-

ties by reducing grass cutting. Members were concerned about the appearance of cemeteries as a result.

The department wants to eliminate the service subsidy and intends to increase charges "significantly" to increase income.

Councillors have asked officers to look at the option of eco-burials, which take place in the Vale.

- Reducing the number of black bags distributed to households to save £30,000 a year.

Officers argue that with increased recycling, there is less demand for these bags.

The panel felt that it would cause potential public dissatisfaction and should be introduced over two years.

Concert date

TICKET holders for Bridgend Male Choir's 50th birthday re-enactment concert, originally scheduled for November 26 and postponed due to bad weather, are reminded that the concert goes ahead at 7pm on Friday, January 14, at Tabernacle Chapel, Pontycymer.

Ticketholders for the original concert date are requested to produce their tickets at the chapel to gain access on Friday evening. The concert is sold out and there will not be any spare tickets available on the night.

Hospital's flu plea: 'STAY AT HOME!'

A PLEA has gone out from the Princess of Wales hospital for people with flu-like symptoms to stay at home and self-treat – unless they have severe symptoms, are pregnant or in an at-risk group.

The hospital's emergency department saw a rise in the number of patients attending over Christmas and New Year with flu-like symptoms, but says that the majority of these patients did not need to be there.

Anyone concerned about their condition should see their GP, or contact NHS Direct on 0845 4647.

The spokesman added that, as regards Norovirus, the Princess of Wales is not experiencing problems with this.

Porthcawl's mammoth charity night is a big success!

THIS year's annual Twelfth Night Fancy Dress Party (in aid of the Sandville Self-Help Centre) at the Hi-Tide was once again a great success.

Three reception rooms were filled with revellers and the fancy dress turn-out was fabulous, with entries showing amazing ingenuity.

It was organised once again by Arthur and Marilyn Beale, together with Dave and Patricia Jones, who lead a team of supporters, too numerous to mention. The event was held in the Hi-Tide, courtesy of Geoff and Francesca Dower.

Guests and celebrities for the judges panel were: Gillian Elisa, 'Fairy Ffion' in the recent Panto at the Grand Pavilion; Alyson and Eifion Evans; Father Irvin Hamer, past chaplain to the Sandville; Chris Needs, Roy Noble and his wife Elaine; Cathy and Neil Poacher; Sister Gwyneth Poacher; and 'Dout Diamond', alias David William,

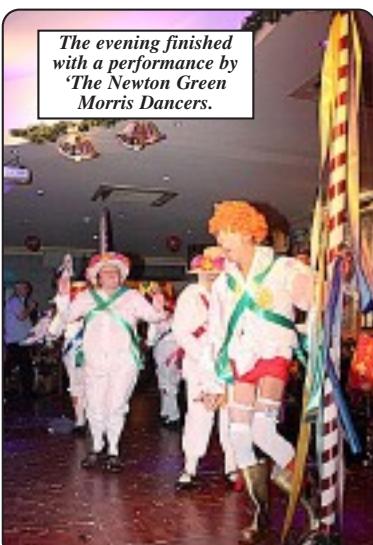
The evening was compered by Lennie Dee and Robbie Owen.

See more pictures on the facing page.

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN



ABOVE: Gwyneth Poacher with the Sandville team.



The evening finished with a performance by The Newton Green Morris Dancers.



ABOVE: A welcome for the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Mary Emmett-Lewis and her consort, Bobbie Lewis.



ABOVE:
The Mayor and Consort with Father Irvin and Owen Money.



ABOVE: The judges with organisers Marylin and Arthur Beal and Dave Jones.



BELOW:
The Barclays and raffle teams (sitting): Judith Callaghan; Ann O'Keefe; Alison Jones; Helen Beale;
Standing: Gill George; Jill Jones; Marilyn Beale; Arthur Beale; Helen Deeks; Trish Jones; Brian Perry; Mandy Perry.



ABOVE: The judges (front row): Cathy Poacher; Alyson Evans; Sister Gwyneth Poacher MBE; Gillian Elisa; Elaine Nobel. (back row): Father Irvin Hamer; Eifion Evans; 'Dout Diamond' David Williams; Chris Needs MBE; Roy Noble.

Meet some of the 12th Night charity party winners!

**PHOTOGRAPHS by
KEITH E MORGAN**



ABOVE: Third in the single male section was the Abominable Snowman.



ABOVE: This liquorice allsort was third in the single female section.



Second in the single females was this topical entry.



Top prize in the single female section went to this 'Strictly' entry.



ABOVE: Tina Turner's getting on a bit, and came in second in the single male section.



ABOVE: First prize in the single male section went to this animated entry.



Les Mis came in second in the group category.



ABOVE: Chilean miners were popular, coming first in the group category (above) and third in the doubles (below).



ABOVE: 'Plane flower' was second in the doubles category.



ABOVE: First prize in the doubles went to the Owl and Pussycat.



ABOVE: Third prize in the groups went to this flower bed!

LOCAL INSTRUCTOR: 'IT'S A REAL PAIN'.

Learner drivers are now facing a nine-week wait at the Cardiff test centre

WAITING times for driving tests in Cardiff have increased by 50 per cent in the wake of the closure of the Barry Test Centre, according to information obtained by an Assembly Member.

Since the centre closed in March, 21 learner drivers in the Vale have either travelled to Cardiff for their tests or to Bridgend.

The waiting times at Cardiff's Fairwater centre rose from six weeks at the end of November 2008 and December 2009 to nine weeks at the end of November 2010.

The Barry Test Centre closed in March last year despite local protests and regional Assembly Member Chris Franks used the Freedom of Information Act to find out from the Driving Standards Agency the most recent waiting times at the Fairwater complex in Cardiff.

He said: "The closure

of the Barry Test Centre has shown not only to affect people in Barry and the rest of the Vale but those living in Cardiff."

The Driving Standards Agency said quite clearly in December 2009 that it had the spare capacity to absorb the diversion of demand from Barry without compromising waiting service targets.

"Clearly, they have been found out and the results of my Freedom of Information request show the DSA need to look again at having a presence in Barry, particularly as it is the largest town in Wales."

"With VAT and tax on petrol rising even further this closure decision will add even more costs for learner drivers as well as driving instructors."

"Plaid imagine that people living in Cardiff also won't be best pleased at having to wait longer for tests."

Mr Franks added: "Tory MP Alan Cairns failed to ensure that the decision to shut the Barry centre was

by TIM CHAPMAN

reversed. It shows he has not got influence in Westminster."

Plaid's Assembly candidate for the Vale, Dr Ian Johnson, added: "There has been a trend, first under the Labour UK Government and now under the Conservatives, that has seen facilities in Barry close, with Vale people expected to go to either Cardiff or Bridgend."

"Recently we've had the police cells moved to Cardiff, the driving test centre moved to Cardiff and the decision to close the magistrates' court."

"These figures show that Cardiff does not have the capacity to take on the additional work from Barry, leading to higher waiting times for driving tests as well as the massive inconvenience and extra cost for learners from the Vale having to travel to Fairwater to get used to the roads on which they'll be tested."

"With the rate of loss

of facilities, Barry is in danger of becoming a ghost town."

Local driving instructor Jim Stokes that the switch to Cardiff had become "a real pain".

He explained: "The waiting period in Barry used to be three to four weeks, now it has more than doubled."

The MP for the Vale Alun Cairns said the decision by the last government to close the driving test centre in Barry was wrong, and that he had expressed this opinion before being elected as MP for the Vale in May 2010.

Mr Cairns said he would be raising the issue of the long waiting times with the transport Minister.

He explained: "I wholly opposed the closure at the time, and regret the decision taken by the last government in 2009."

The prospect of reversing that decision could have been more expensive, particularly when public finances are tighter than at any time in living memory.

"The recent data about the long waiting times for driving tests in Cardiff, only underline the arguments presented by me, the test centre users and others in the community who opposed the closure at the time."

"I will be raising the matter with the transport Minister, as action is needed to reduce waiting times for the people of Barry and the Vale."

The DSA argues that alternative test centres in Cardiff and Bridgend are within the "20-mile travel distance criterion" for people in the Vale.

Writers' Circle BRIDGEND Writers' Circle will meet at 7.15pm on Friday, January 14, in Blandy Hall, Laleston, when Pat Forster will give the details of a murder mystery play competition.

The winning play will be performed in Portcawl later in the year and will also win the Ralton competition. This will be followed by a manuscript evening when work in progress will be read.

Plan to ban delivery lorries from Maesteg town centre criticised

MAESTEG councillors who wanted to restrict access to the town centre by delivery lorries, have had their knuckles rapped.

The council backed a request from Councillor Phil Jenkins to bring in a traffic regulation order banning large lorries from delivering to shops during the day – possible after 8am and before 6pm.

Councillors referred to lorries clogging up the town centre during the day if they are unable to get into their delivery bays because of illegal parking.

Reference was made to the harmful effects of fumes on pedestrians from idling traffic and it was felt that the ban would result in a healthier and more vibrant town centre.

But town centre manager Rhianon

Kingsley, on behalf of BCBC, said that preventing delivery lorries accessing shops would have a major impact on businesses in the town.

She said that highway officers were not aware of any such orders in force elsewhere and even if such an order were made, there would be no enforcement as police have withdrawn all traffic wardens. The situation would be open to abuse and not achieve its objective.

She said that delivery drivers who service Maesteg also have to go to other towns as part of their route, and being unable to come to Maesteg after 8am would have a huge effect on them.

The council has decided to ask county borough members in the town to meet highways officers in BCBC to discuss the problems caused by delivery lorries in the town.

COUNCIL RAPS MARKET OVER EARLY CLOSING

MAESTEG market traders who closed their stalls in the early afternoon of the day when the Christmas lights were being switched on, have been criticised by the town council for a lack of enthusiasm.

Maesteg Town Council decided to contact the market manager after adverse comments were made by visitors for the Christmas parade

and festivities in December.

Councillors said that some of the stalls closed at lunchtime. There was also disappointment at the lack of response by shopkeepers to the Christmas window dressing competition.

The council has now decided to invite Town Centre manager Rhianon Kingsley to the meetings to organise the 2011 Christmas festivities in a bid to engage more of the traders in the event.

The borough council's property section has contacted the town council to say that all stallholders are given the times when the market should be open, and these opening times are included in the tenancy agreements.

The council will be reminding stall holders of their obligations regarding trading hours.

Councillor Bill May said they have all been told, but if it happens again, the town council will take further action.

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Attacked householder now 'afraid to go out'

Kenfig Hill man is jailed after violent burglary

A householder was attacked in his own home when he stumbled across a burglar, Cardiff Crown Court has been told.

Michael Reid was so upset by the experience that he later said in a statement: "I am now a totally different person and I only want my own company."

He said he was afraid to go out and didn't wish to live in the area any longer.

Clifford Foster (45) of Kenfig Hill, was jailed for 22 months, after pleading guilty to a charge of burglary.

Judge William Gaskell said: You don't need me to tell you that you have a deplorable history of violence".

On one occasion in the past, he said, Foster stabbed a man in his arm, severing a nerve and rendering it useless.

He added: "You forced your way into the home of Mr Reid and carried out a systematic, untidy search. When he came back, you attacked him with a hammer you had taken with you.

"This was a significant burglary and you even went into the attic."

Prosecutor Carl Harrison said that on April 22, Mr Reid left his maisonette home in North Cornelly and went for a walk.

He returned an hour later to find a panel in the front door was damaged.

When he entered his home, he heard his Jack Russell Terrier crying, went up a flight of stairs, heard a noise, and shouted: "Who the hell is in my house?"

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

Foster, whom he knew, ran downstairs and struck out at Mr Reid with a hammer, before throwing several punches, two of which connected.

Mr Reid suffered cuts to his lips, and a back injury, said Mr Harrison.

When arrested, Foster denied going to the property, but his fingerprints were found at a number of locations there.

He was said to have four previous convictions for wounding, one of which had resulted in a five-year sentence,

and for offences of causing actual bodily harm and affray, and of handling stolen property.

Hilary Roberts, defending, said: "Foster now recognises that he broke the law. He has had a difficult life, failing to cope with emotional strains which caused him to resort to drink and heroin.

"It must be accepted that he has a dreadful record. His intention in committing the burglary was theft, not violence.

"He is a mature man who must address his future"

Newton ward faces 'protest' by-election

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mr Walter said he had attended a number of town council meetings and he was not impressed with the standard of discussion and debate.

"If elected, I would focus entirely on the issues thrown up by regeneration and what's going on. I would not be interested in all the committees and other activities.

"The political parties have not achieved anything – it's time for non political people with fresh ideas to have a chance."

Asked about the potential cost of the by-election, Mr Walter said society could not put a price on democracy.

"If we let things drift for another year until the council elections in May 2012, who knows what will have happened? We have had years of drift, with nobody taking a stand in Porthcawl against

what's been going on. "We need three or four people on the town council, who are not aligned with any party, who can fight for the best interests of the town."

Mr Walter said that if he stood, he would have no party machine

behind him and no funding to pay for an election, but he had received offers of help from residents.

"It is the people of Newton who want this election and they were not happy simply to see someone co-opted on by the nod. I believe that that would have been wrong."

Mr Walter felt it was wrong for the county borough councillors to sit on Porthcawl Town Council as well, because this had resulted in the town council "sitting on its hands" over regeneration and abdicating its responsibility to represent the people of the town on this issue.

She explained that Coun Barbara Stubbs, who represented the council at the forum, had not wished to make a report to members until the minutes were available, and she would be doing that at the next meeting.

Coun David Deere said that the agenda on January 27 would include an item on regeneration.

He added: "I have also asked the clerk to ensure that this will be placed on every agenda of the full council in future."

While he supported the principles of democracy, there would be a full council election within 14 months and he feared that holding a by-election would be a waste of council resources, at a time of cutbacks.

THE RSPCA has reported a case of strangles, a highly contagious disease, in a horse at Llantrisant Common.

The people whose horses graze on the land are doing what they can to contain the airborne equine respiratory infection but people are being strongly advised to keep away from the area for the time being.

RSPCA inspector Simon Evans said: "It is common for some people to go down and look at the horses on the common,

sometimes even to take horses with them.

"People are aware of the problem and are doing all they can to contain it.

"Our priority is making as many people as possible aware of the issue and the importance of keeping away.

"Although horses suffer from strangles, the disease can be carried by people, so it is extremely important that people, as well as other horses, do not visit the area."

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Library closed

Cowbridge Library re-opening has been delayed due to the adverse weather conditions. The library will now re-open at 9.30am on Monday January 24, 2011. We apologise for the inconvenience caused.

Customers are reminded that they may use the services of other libraries in the Vale.



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BCBC cabinet vote to seek private sector partner to manage service

THE provision of home care to elderly and disabled residents in Bridgend county borough, and the running of the residential homes owned by the council, is to be hived off to a "partner" organisation.

The cabinet of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) voted on Tuesday to accept a recommendation from officers that they seek a suitable partner to manage both the majority of the council's homecare service and its three residential homes – Hyfrydol in Maesteg; Brynycae in Brackla and Ty Cwm Ogwr in Pantyraewl.

The fourth home at Glanyrafon in Ynysawdre is to be retained under council control.

A full report to cabinet revealed that it costs £588 a week to keep someone in one of the council's own homes compared to between £462 and £492 a week in privately-run homes.

This means that the council is paying up to £126 a week more per person per week for places in its own homes, compared with those available in the inde-

pendent sector. The cabinet was also told that running the council's homecare service, which sends carers into residents' own homes to provide essential care, costs the council £22 an hour, compared with £14 for independent providers – a difference of £8 an hour.

At the moment, the council provides 5,300 hours of home care a week to 830 users. This costs the council £42,400 a week more than if it used independent providers.

The report, from Sue Cooper, head of adult services, said that work had been going on to explore new models of service delivery for long-term homecare and for residential care services.

The savings to be made were now an integral part of the council's medium term financial plan.

She said that the Commissioning Plan for adult social care highlighted the need to look at innovative ways of improving and developing services, and to review the balance between what is owned and directly provided by the council and what is provided by external partners and providers.

Talks have taken place with a number of

organisations about possible changes and there has been an acceptance of the fact that Bridgend, like the rest of the UK, faces problems with finance and the realisation that traditional models of care are not sustainable and tend to maximise dependency in the user rather than maximise independence.

There is also an acknowledgement that the council needs to do things differently in future and that alternative options can be more flexible and responsive to individual needs.

Cabinet was told that significant work had already been done to drive down current costs, including minimising overtime payments, reducing sickness absence, reducing travel time and costs, but it has been concluded that while more can be done, it is unlikely to significantly reduce costs any further.

KEY MESSAGE

The report says that a key message coming out of the review of services that has been carried out is that it is increasingly difficult to justify the continued direct provision of all the current homecare services by the council.

But there is a business case for continuing to provide homecare in

REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC

conjunction with health service partners which is aimed at rehabilitating and enabling individuals to regain as much of their independence as possible.

ALTERNATIVE

Alternative arrangements should be pursued to deliver long term elements of the homecare service.

The review also found that the current residential homes will not be fit for purpose in future. The money needed to remodel them is unlikely to be available to the council.

There is a strong case to pursue an alternative way of providing residential care at the three homes to drive down costs.

The report said that a "do nothing" option is not feasible or desirable. Also, an in-house solution is not considered viable, other than for some parts of the home-care service.

Three options were looked at and it was agreed that the only one that was suitable was transferring the current services to a partner organisation.

Alternative options could result in the closure of homes and large scale redundancies.

Transferring services to a partner organisation will give the council the best opportunity to deliver the changes needed.

But the report warns

that this option will require a "robust and transparent" procurement exercise to identify a preferred partner or partners and could ultimately involve the large-scale transfer of existing residential and homecare staff.

The cabinet has also agreed to engage specialist consultants, able to give advice and expertise on these changes.

CONSULTATIONS

A programme board has been set up to oversee the project and consultations will be taking place with staff and users or their representatives.

The council hopes to save £200,000 in 2012/13 and £500,000 the year after.

Background papers presented to cabinet reveal that there are 1036 residential and nursing care placement

in the borough – 137 provided by the council and the rest by the independent sector.

The council commissions 585 places each week – 455 of these with the independent sector.

The Homecare service falls into two areas – specialist services to promote recovery, rehabilitation, or for people suffering with dementia, and other services providing personal care over a longer term.

Out of the 5,300 hours provided by the council per week, 4,000 of these are to the latter category, with 500 for rehabilitation and 700 for dementia.

The report stated that the demand for these services has exceeded the budget for this financial year and has resulted in an overspend. This is not sustainable in the long term.

The council has already switched the emphasis in homecare onto prevention and rehabilitation, so that the demand for care reduces long term.

BCBC proposes to increase the hours for rehabilitation and

dementia by a further 500 hours and take 500 hours out of the long term homecare budget.

The report adds: "It is becoming increasingly difficult to justify the continued direct provision of all of the current homecare services, based on the differential in hourly costs with the independent sector."

ARGUMENT

It says that there is a strong argument for pursuing alternative arrangements for long term homecare to achieve a cost per hour that is closer to that currently charged by independent providers.

The BCBC cabinet member for well being, Coun Lyn Morgan, has welcomed the decision to seek an external partner to run home care services and residential homes for the elderly.

He said that as a responsible and caring council, it was essential that BCBC offered a range of high quality services to meet the needs of vulnerable citizens.

He said: "We also recognise the way people wish to live their lives in later years is changing.

We need to do this with significantly less resources, so we must consider alternative and innovative solutions."

Coun Morgan said that working with an external partner would help ensure that the council was better able to meet changing needs and expectations, while also being efficient and sensible in the current financial climate.

He added that, at the moment, the council is going to approach potential partners to hear their proposals for a positive way forward. He warned that doing nothing was not an option.

He went on: "The quality of the service we currently provide is in question but we are looking at the long term here and we know the way forward is likely to be through collaboration and partnership.

"I look forward to hearing some detailed options and the views of those who use and work within these services. Residents and staff can rest assured that this will be a robust and transparent process."

Foodbank is celebrating its first year in Bridgend

THE Bridgend foodbank has just celebrated its first birthday, and during its first year has helped almost 700 residents of the borough – including 300 children.

The organisation is part of a national charity which originated in Salisbury when the congregation of the cathedral started a programme to feed the homeless.

It has mushroomed from there, and is run by the Trussell Trust, which is a Christian organisation. There are now 77 foodbanks in the UK and they are spreading throughout the country.

The Bridgend foodbank, which operates from a shop on Nolton Street, is run entirely by volunteers, as are all the others and most are linked to local churches and chapels.

The manager is Gerald Manners, who said that the demand for help "went mad" over the Christmas and new year period, especially with the bad weather.

He explained: "We are essentially a crisis centre which exists to help people through a difficult patch. Most of the people we help have been affected by delays in their benefits arriving – leaving them with no money for food.

"We are also finding during very cold weather that people are having to spend more on heating – leaving themselves without money for food."

The charity issues vouchers to front line social workers and health visitors, which they can distribute to families or individuals in need.

Vouchers are then brought to their shop by the recipient and exchanged for food parcels.

These are tailored to suit the size and needs of the family involved.

"We give them a generous three-day amount of food which includes tins, dried foods like

by JAYNE ISAAC

pasta and rice, sauces, tinned fruit and vegetables and long-life milk," he said.

"We also give tea or coffee, depending on the preference of the family involved."

This amount of food usually tides the family over until their money arrives or, they can return for further help in exceptional circumstances. However, the charity usually only helps the same people a maximum of three times.

"We are there to help them during a crisis but we should not be regarded as a free shop. It's to help people until the DSS or Social Services can organise proper support. But we are flexible," he added.

The charity has set up two satellite foodbanks – one in Cornelly and another in Bettws: "We go through local churches and in Cornelly, it is run by the community church and in Bettws, St David's. They provide the volunteers to man it. We provide the food," he said.

The group is now hoping to open another food bank in Maesteg, but needs an active church willing to take on the responsibility.

The foodbank relies on donations of money and food and is currently considering the possibility of leaving food collection boxes by the check-outs at local supermarkets into which shoppers can donate food items.

"We collected a lot of food from the church and school harvest festivals last autumn. We asked people to donate tins and packets rather than fresh items which would be perishable. It was very successful," Mr Manners stated.

Anyone wishing to donate food can take it to the shop which is next to the Solid Rock cafe. But

he made a special plea: "No beans, please. We could sell some of these back to the supermarkets because we have so many. Also we have a lot of tinned soup, so I would ask people to donate other food items at the moment."

The charity is also considering what to do about pet food: "Many people who come to us have pets who need to be fed as well, and that's something we should consider."

Mr Manners revealed that the food bank was getting busier as its work became more widely known. People who need help should not turn up at the shop unless they have a voucher. If they do, they are sent to Social Services first.

"We have to have some order and we cannot just dish food out willy nilly to anyone who shows up," he added. "It needs to be properly organised."

If the group gets seasonal food like Christmas puddings or cakes, they are distributed to people getting the food parcels.

"We have a shelf where we place such items and people are invited to choose one or two items themselves from what's available. It gives a little variety to what we can offer."

Mr Manners emphasised that the group was totally non-judgemental and help is given, with no questions asked.

"They usually have a cup of tea with us while their parcel is being put together. We try to make it a pleasant occasion."

The shop in Bridgend is open Monday and Tuesday from 10am to 2pm and on Fridays from 11.30am to 2.30pm.

On Wednesday, the bank in Bettws is open from 9am to 11am and on Thursday, Cornelly is open from 1pm to 3pm.

The group has its own website and Facebook page.



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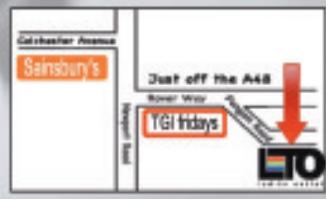
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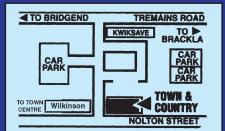


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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Choir recruits

CHILDREN aged between eight and 17, who enjoy singing and dancing, are invited to attend the rehearsals of Maesteg Children's Choir at Plasnewydd Primary School on Saturday mornings.

This is a great chance for them to broaden their musical experience; it will be the choir's 25th anniversary of their annual concert which will be held at Maesteg town hall in June.

The choir welcomes children from all areas in the Bridgend county borough boundaries.

Information can be obtained on www.cob-webs.co.uk or by phoning Aimee on 01656 734589.

Toddler meet

TONDU Primary School has restarted Tondu Toddlers mornings on Thursdays, 9.45am-11.15am, to encourage toddlers to socialise with others.

It is also an opportunity for responsible adults to get to know the staff at the school.

USA meeting

A MEETING of Maesteg University of the Third Age (USA) was held at Central Church Hall when the speaker was Dr Graham Humphreys,

who gave an educational talk about his journey on the Trans-Siberian Railway, enti-

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



ted 'Maesteg to Moscow'.

This fantastic railway carries travellers from Moscow via Mongolia to Beijing in China.

A number of interest groups have now been formed and they are proving to be very popular. At the moment, there is a rambling group, literature group, music appreciation, family history, and gardening. Other interesting subjects under consideration are theatre visits and languages.

The next meeting will be held at the Central Church Hall at 2.30pm on January 25 when the speaker will be Mike Clubb – his topic is the 'History of Bridgend Armaments Factory'.

The U3A consists of about 30 friendly members. They look forward to seeing all existing members and welcoming new members. Telephone Geoff on 07708 945393 for more information.

New group

A NEW support group is being formed to provide advice and information to patients, family members and

friends of anyone who has had surgery because of bowel or bladder problems.

It will be meeting in the residents' block community hall of the Princess of Wales Hospital on Friday, January 14, 2pm-3pm.

Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be provided.

For details, telephone

Jackie on 07843 988432.

Correction

I AM sorry to write that there was an error in my article last week on the concert being held in the Tabernacle Chapel, Pontycymer by the Bridgend Male Choir, to raise funds for cancer research.

The correct date was

Friday, January 14 – not

January 15.

Service highlight

THE Côr Meibion Cwm Garw (Garw Valley Male Voice Choir) Christmas service, highlight of the choir's calendar, was held in St David's Church, Pontycymer.

Once again, the stars of the evening were a choir formed by pupils of the local Blaengarw school, which provided a variety of music.

A special mention must be made of Shauna Davies for an impeccable performance and sweetness in her voice.

The guest soloist for the Côr Meibion was Phoebe Ann Lewis, who beautifully sang 'Nadolig Llawen I Ch' along with the choir, her fluency and pronunciation of the Welsh language was outstanding.

The male soloists with the choir were Allan

Walters singing the haunting 'Dafydd Y Garreg Wen' written by the blind harpist and composer David Owen, which tells the story based on 'Y Garreg Wen', the farm near Morfa Bychan, Porthmadoc, where he had lived.

David Rees sang the lament from the West End show *'Les Misérables'*, 'I dreamed a dream'.

The evening included the communal singing of carols, mince pies and mulled wine, and the draw of raffle tickets.

PTA thanked

MARTIN GRIFFITHS, headteacher of Tynehead Primary

School thanks members of the PTFA who raised a total of £1,001.13 in the Christmas fayre held at the Richard Price Centre, Llangeinor; with a further £92.20 raised from the sale of glow sticks at the community pantomime.

Class 3 are having swimming lessons every day for a fortnight beginning on January 10. Can parents please ensure the pupils bring a swimming costume and towel everyday.

Inspection

OGMORE Vale Primary School head Paul Booth, advises responsible adults of pupils that school inspectors

from IESTYN, reporting under Section 28 of the 2005 Education Act, will be at the school from January 24-27.

They will be available at the school on Monday, January 24 at 5.30pm.

SAFE ROUTE TO SCHOOL: critics are criticised

MAESTEG town councillors who complained at the December meeting about difficulties for children walking to the town's comprehensive school under the railway bridge at Castle Street were themselves criticised at the January meeting.

Coun Keith Edwards, who had not been present the previous month, said he was surprised to read in the minutes that councillors had raised this issue with the BCBC access officer who was

present.

He said: "How can the council talk about children walking under the bridge at Castle Street when this council endorsed the use of Ferrier's Row as the alternative route and where there is a school crossing patrol."

"Children from the upper West Ward can go via Cwrt y Mwnws where the path is almost completed."

"I am amazed that councillors talk about these difficulties when work has been done or is on-going."

Advisor post

NEIL DAVIES, headteacher at Mynydd Cynffig Junior School, Kenfig Hill, has accepted an offer from the education and school improvement service (ESIS) to become a primary adviser, supporting the local authorities of Bridgend, Caerphilly, Merthyr and Rhondda Cynon Taf.

The position is a two-year secondment which starts on January 24 and runs until the end of December 2012. During this period Mr Richard Goldsworthy will become acting headteacher; Mr Craig Price will become acting deputy headteacher and Miss Helen Dennis will become teacher for Class 3. At the beginning of February, a PPA teacher will be appointed to replace Miss Dennis.

Following the secondment, Mr Davies will return to the school to resume his position as headteacher.

Mr Davies would like to express his thanks to the chair of governors, Mrs Greta Rogers, and the governing body of the school who have been very supportive.

He would also thank the fantastic team of teachers and support staff at the school, and all the parents who have given him tremendous backing over the past five and a half years.

Swimming sessions started at the school last Monday (January 10) for



COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE by Richard Sims

Telephone: 01656 746840
Mobile: 07802 439679
E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

pupils in class 4 with enjoyed a trip organised by the centre to see the fantastic *Mamma Mia* in Cardiff.

There will be two afternoon sessions on a Monday and Wednesday per week. After-school clubs also started this week, apart from the environment club, which will restart after the February half-term when it is hoped that the weather will be milder for outdoor activities.

The fitness club on Thursdays, for year-3, will have to be cancelled for the remainder of the school year due to Mr Davies leaving to undertake his secondment with ESIS.

Because of unforeseen circumstances, there has not been a science club for the first two Mondays of the new term. However, the first of the year will start on Monday, January 24.

Community centre

FOLLOWING the Christmas recess, the Talbot Centre, Kenfig Hill, is again in full flow.

Last Thursday evening, 48 locals

from

10am-3pm.

The initiative is being developed by members of Sustainable Wales Arts For the Earth Group.

It is led by community music-trained tutor, Raul Martin, who wants to take his five years of rock club experience from the school into the high street.

Coun Terry Mizen said that the service from this firm was not good enough. He said: "This toilet costs us a lot of money to lease and it was not a cheap option.

"For it to have been open all night is not good enough. Public toilets do not have a holiday and this company should be reminded of its obligations."

The clerk will report back to the next meeting once the firm has been contacted.

(three times a week followed by bingo on a Friday), political meetings, a training centre with IT facilities and, of course, for their interesting trips.

The Talbot is at last becoming what it was meant to be, a true 'community centre' to be used by everyone. For details of events at the Talbot, ring Cheryl Butcher on 01656 749754.

Help for Heroes

MANY congratulations go to 82-year-old Mrs Mary Morgan from Pyle who has raised £120 from the community for the 'Help for Heroes' fund.

This was boosted by a further £45 from money collected at the tree she displayed during the Christmas tree festival at St Theodore's Church in Kenfig Hill.

Well done to this grand old lady, who still finds the time to support a worthwhile cause!

Rock School in Porthcawl

THE Rock Club will be held at The Green Room:

41 John Street,

Porthcawl,

on Saturdays and

Sundays each week

and enrolment

starts on January

15-16 from

10am-3pm.

ing. Optional one-to-one tutoring will also be available and young musicians who are already having private lessons will be able to put the skills they have been learning into practice."

"Sustainable Wales believes music and all the arts contribute hugely to wellbeing, good health, and a more interesting and meaningful life," said Margaret Minchinick, the charity's director.

"It's great that our high street office can provide the space for young musicians to practise. Rehearsal venues are usually costly or unavailable. It's time the high street was more orientated towards youth and culture!"

She added: "All artistic expression describes what it means to be human. Remember the old saying 'who has art has all'."

Places are limited and contacts should be made to 'The Rock Club' at 'The Green Room' at Sustainable Wales on 01656 783405 to book places.

Town's public loo is open all hours!

PROBLEMS with the new 'Tardis'-type public loo recently opened in Maesteg could not be dealt with over the new year period because the company which supplied it was on holiday.

This information was given to staff in Wilkinsons to report any faults that occur when the council offices are closed.

Coun Terry Mizen said that the service from this firm was not good enough. He said: "This toilet costs us a lot of money to lease and it was not a cheap option.

"For it to have been open all night is not good enough. Public toilets do not have a holiday and this company should be reminded of its obligations."

The clerk will report back to the next meeting once the firm has been contacted.

Members look backwards (and then to the future!)

ON January 4, President Jill Rosser welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2011 and Toni Farrant jogged memories with the minutes for November and December.

Lil Merry reminded members that subscriptions were due and the county newsletter gave details of future events.

For those who wish to travel further afield, a

LLANHARRY WI NEWS

Gloucester City walk is on April 14. The half yearly council meeting will be on May 4 at Porthcawl, when the guest speaker will be singer and radio presenter, Beverley Humphries.

Whatever the weather conditions, the Lunch Club continue to meet every month and The Bear, Llanharry, is the venue on January 21.

Detective Chief Inspector Sally Burke was introduced, who

shared her experiences regarding specialist crime and outlined her day-to-day challenges.

During social time tea, coffee, cakes and chocolates were provided by Joy Brookings and Rita Butt.

The competition 'My favourite Christmas Card' was won by Margaret Edwards.

The next meeting is on February 1 when the talk will be 'Welsh girls in domestic service'.

JR

Maesteg children's home set to close

MAESTEG

Children's Home is to be closed as part of a shake-up of children's services within Bridgend county borough.

The council commissioned an independent report, including an action plan, in 2007 to look at ways of improving children's services which was to be implemented over a three year period.

One of the key elements was a review of residential provision and of the needs of children in residential care.

The review recommended that the three remaining children's homes in the borough be re-designed to provide an emergency and assessment facility, a complex needs unit and a transition unit.

But last June, the cabinet accepted the findings of a further feasibility study which

found there was no need for an emergency assessment unit as there was alternative provision.

But it said that two of the homes should be redesigned to provide a complex needs unit and a transition unit.

A team was appointed to investigate and this is proposing that the transition unit be located at Cartrefle in Bridgend. The central location is ideal for young people wishing to attend college or have work placements as well as needing access to after care and other services. There are also good transport links.

The building only needs minor adaptations. The two other homes in Maesteg and Porthcawl were not considered suitable for this unit.

The review has recommended that the complex needs unit should be located in

Porthcawl rather than Maesteg.

The report said that Pant Morfa in Porthcawl was in a pleasant area near the beach. The building was considered large enough to accommodate the numbers of children and young people in need of such a residential placement with the space necessary for extra facilities.

The premises are in a good state of repair and would only need redecoration.

The report stated that the home in Maesteg, which is in Brookfield Road, has a homely atmosphere and good links with the community.

The accommodation is slightly too small to meet anticipated needs for a complex needs unit and there is no room to provide other services. A parking area would also have to be provided on adjoining land at a cost of £20,000.

Both properties are in similar states of repair and have the same resale value, but there is no room in Maesteg for staff from the council and partner agencies to carry out therapies.

Pant Morfa does have this space.

The cabinet was asked on Tuesday to approve Pant Morfa as the location of the complex needs unit and that Maesteg be closed as a children's home. This was agreed.

The surplus property in Maesteg will be considered for alternative uses or for sale.

JAYNE ISAAC

PACT meeting raises priorities

THE Pyle and Cefn Cribwr PACT meeting was held recently at the Talbot Community Centre, when priorities raised were graffiti at St David Mews, Kenfig Hill; parking issues at Pisgah St, Kenfig Hill and speeding at Heol Mostyn/Marshfield Ave, Pyle.

PCSO Jon Howe reported Pyle & Cefn Cribwr NPT carried out a speeding operation across the area, with seven warnings issued to drivers over the three night period.

Over 500 vehicles were checked for speed over three days and only seven were deemed fast enough to warrant further action.

"Speeding in the area is a problem that we will never be able to completely eradicate but we will continue to carry out these operations whenever we can," he promised.

Pencoed under-9s have two close encounters

THIS was another great result for Pencoed under-9s, who from the whistle were winning the breakdown.

Only the quality of a very strong Cowbridge side kept the home side out. In fact, the visitors put up a dogged defence before putting together some excellent passing moves and only strong tackling, from Owain Johns backed by Thomas and Rhys Bending kept the score sheet blank.

Flyer Tyron Harding flew down the wing to open the scoring. Mikey Bosley used his strength to crash through the Cowbridge three-quarters and Sam Costelow converted.

Cowbridge have quality players and they showed their class with some great handling for an excellent try which was quickly converted.

For Pencoed, Jonathan Carr broke away with elusive running and went over for the third. Mikey Bosley converted and the home side thought the game was won – but Cowbridge never gave up and just before the whistle they ran in their

second try, which was converted.

A nail-biting final minute saw them attack once more but Cael Chamberlain, Josh Ward, Oliver Lewis and Rhys Spurgeon led the defence to hold out for a great win. Man of the match Owain Johns.

Final score: Pencoed 19 Cowbridge 14.

The line up changed for a second game, but the quality of these two teams was again on display from the whistle.

Sam Costelow now began to dictate the play and ran in a great individual try. Owain Johns converted.

Robbie Griffiths and Jack Rowlands dominated the breakdown and Ioan Richards and Ethan Davies kept the attacks going forward with excellent pick and drives through the heart of the visitors' defence.

Will Jervis showed his pace and off-loaded to supporting runner Oliver Lewis, who beat several challenges to go over for Pencoed's second. Ethan Davies converted and again the home side felt in control.

However, the visitors increased the intensity of their tackling and took

control of the breakdown area, resulting in a well-deserved try. From the restart, Cowbridge attacked in waves and were now taking charge.

They put together a great switch move to break Pencoed's defence to set up another tense finish. It was all square at 14-all.

The home crowd were on edge as Cowbridge were five metres out, but Pencoed won the ball and a great crash ball saw Josh Ward break the tackle and run the length of the field for the home side's third try. Jonathan Carr converted.

Final score: Pencoed 21 Cowbridge 14.

A crowd-pleasing display of quality rugby from both sides and Pencoed's winning streak goes on. Man of the match went to Ioan Richards.

Team: Mikey Bosley, Owain Johns, Jack Rowlands, Ioan Richards, Josh Ward, Rhys Spurgeon, Thomas and Rhys Bending, Jonathan Carr, Tyron Harding, Oliver Lewis, Sam Costelow, Ben Sullivan, Ethan Davies, Will Jervis, Cael Chamberlain.

MB

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PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

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ON Sunday, January 9, a vintage tractor event was held in the Vale.

It started in Arthur John's Cowbridge yard at 10.30am and was in aid of the Ty Hafan hospice at Sully. The tractor owners, who hailed from Bridgend county borough, the Vale, Chepstow and Monmouth, travelled through the Vale to Llwyngwyn and Colwinston, finishing at Llanmaes.

As Glyn Evans' photographs of the day show, the biggest challenge was going through the flooded ford at Castle-upon-Alun.



Pencoed defeat Gwent visitors

PENCOED under-14s were up against Caerleon on the weekend.

The game started well for Caerleon as they

scooled the first try of the day, followed by a successful conversion but the Pencoed pack fought back and Chris Cooper got over the try line for Pencoed's first try of the game, which he converted.

Pencoed were then awarded a penalty, and Jac Briggs took advantage.

However, Caerleon came back with another try and conversion, and Pencoed responded, with good passing putting Daniel Maiden almost to the try line. He looked for support



It looked shallower on the riverbank!

JM

Man is convicted after Christie Tyler lead theft

A POLICE helicopter and dog handlers were called in when a man fled in the Bridgend area, after stealing lead from a factory roof.

Unemployed Jonathan Davies (31) of Bridgend, eventually handed himself into the police and "fully admitted stealing the metal", said prosecutor Sian Phillips at

Cardiff Crown Court. Davies went on to say that he had intended selling the lead at £1 per kilo.

Davies had been convicted by Vale Magistrates of a charge

to undertake 80 hours unpaid work and to pay costs of £325.

Judge Philip Richards said: "The problem of metal theft is increasing in our society and it is not unknown for it to be linked to the use of drugs."

"In some cases, it can

cause great distress to the victims. The factory concerned was seemingly derelict."

Ms Phillips said that on November 21, with four others, Davies stole lead, the value unknown, from the disused Christie Tyler furniture factory near Bridgend.

"It has been disused for several years, and over the previous months had been subject to theft

Porthcawl under-16s shake off the Christmas cobwebs

P O R T H C A W L under-16s had their first game of 2011 home to the newly-formed Dulais Valley Lions, who are made up of players from Seven Sisters, Banwen and Crynant.

Although there was a delayed start to the game, this didn't seem to affect the young Seaweeds and scrum half Conor Rees scored a great try, picking the ball up from the base of the ruck and racing in unopposed.

It was an opportunist try which caught the defence sleeping. Huw Mitchell converted superbly from the touchline.

The second try took a bit longer, with both sides shaking off the cobwebs, having not played

since early December. Lloyd Rosser Stanford scored this, using his blistering pace to beat a number of defenders and score a good try, which was again converted by Mitchell.

Dulais Valley Lions kept at it and were making things difficult for the seaweeds, who had to work hard for good possession.

After good forwards and backs play, Tom Bluck glided through the opposition defence to score a well-deserved try.

Good pressure meant that Porthcawl were always in control of the game, but there was no more scoring in the half due to excellent defence by the opposition. (Half time score 19-0).

The second half saw the same pattern of play, with the young Seaweeds having the

majority of possession and territory but unable to take advantage. A number of substitutions were made by the home side and this seemed to lower the intensity of the game for a period.

However, after some good positional play and rucking Jack Williams was able to power his way down the touch line and score a try in the corner.

The final Porthcawl score followed three or four phases of play and some excellent interlinking between forwards and backs. An overlap was created and No. 8 Dan Evans capitalised.

He still had some work to do and after selling the defender a good dummy, he gave himself enough room to score in the corner. This was again well converted by Mitchell.

Not to be outdone,

Dulais Valley were able to score a consolation try which was well deserved for the effort they put in throughout the match.

One bit of sad news was that after making a bone-crunching tackle during the last play of the game, Tom Morris limped off the pitch.

He later discovered that he had broken his ankle, we wish him all the best and a speedy recovery.

Final score:
Porthcawl RFC 31
Dulais Valley Lions 5

Team Manager Paul Brown said: "Dulais Valley Lions gave a very good account of themselves and although rusty at times, Porthcawl were made to work hard for the victory.

"We are now coming to the business end of the season and have some big matches coming up, which the boys are really looking forward to."

'Gates were a memorial'

THIEVES STEAL CHURCH GATES IN THE NIGHT

by PHILIP IRWIN

A PORTHCAWL church is counting the cost after two pairs of gates were stolen recently.

A police officer arrived at the scene and found a gap in the fence.

He noticed one man carrying plastic bags into a white van. Inside the factory, he saw three men carrying rolls of lead.

"He heard shouting

from the roof, from which lead was being thrown, and saw the defendant and told him to come down and join the others. He walked off and disappeared," he said.

The amount of lead

involved was "considerable".

Davies' counsel

Meirion Davies said: "He

was arrested after presenting himself to the police. In the background, there was a drugs problem which he has tried to address.

Acrylics art demo

TODAY, January 13, at 7pm in Old Hall, on Cowbridge High Street, Arnold Lowry will give a demonstration using acrylics to the town's Art Society.

Next Thursday, January 20, at 7pm in the Old Hall, Brian Shambles, a local artist, will be returning to give a demonstration on water-colours.

As always, non-members are welcome to attend.



with anti-theft devices." **ABOVE: The main gates are gone at the Tabernacle Church in Porthcawl.**

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Local expert Gareth is a one-of-a-kind advisor

LANTWIT MAJOR man Gareth Tregidion has been appointed to head up south Wales accountancy firm Bevan & Buckland's financial services department.

He is the only financial advisor in Wales to hold the internationally-recognised Certified Financial Planner CM qualification, as well as being an accredited Later Life Adviser (LLAA) with the Society of Later Life Advisers. Gareth's role will be

to help clients plan their finances and prepare for their retirement, as state pensions and retirement ages get eroded even further.

He explained: "My specialisms are within investments, care fees planning, equity release and pensions. My aim is to help people who are close to or in retirement plan their finances.

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Allpump Services help customers to become more cost efficient...

IT'S all (pump) systems go at the office of Haydn and Eleri Lloyd.

At Allpump, there is always someone at the

end of the telephone who can advise customers on any technical issue, whether its advice on buying a pump or fittings to filtration and water systems.

A spokesman explained: "We offer good quality pumps that are value for money and cost effective.

"Allpump is conscious of the spiralling cost of energy and is helping customers to become more cost efficient and environmentally friendly.

"Allpump has recently introduced inverter control pumps that use less electricity.

"Addressing climate change, Allpump can run heating systems on wind-operating pumps, where electricity is not an option, solar for farm dairies and heat from plate coolers.

"With the potential of the government introduction of NDZ in Wales, Allpump Services are introducing a slurry separator, which can be used in conjunction with the existing Allpump dirty water system.

"This is potentially a major growth area as legislation changes."

Pitman Training is not just about shorthand and typing. Courses range from basic computer skills (for the completely terrified!) to advanced secretarial diplomas and accounting.

Before starting a course, every learner has a free one-to-one consultation with a learning adviser to help them decide on the best course



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Classy Cuts – a great local dog service

CHRIS AMOS is a qualified dog groomer in St Athan and has just launched his own business.

Chris said: "I now have my own business called Classy Cuts in St Athan, and am grooming from my home, 120 Lougher Place, St Athan.

"I studied and qualified at Pencoed College and have gained NVQ levels two and three in canine grooming, bathing and styling.

"During college, I worked part-time for a mobile dog wash, and

Pitman training – work at a pace to suit you

ONE in three adults in the UK regrets not having got better qualifications while at school, according to research by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC).

Pitman Training is one of the best known and trusted providers of adult training in the UK and has more than 100 centres across the UK.

Pitman Training courses are all geared towards helping people get ahead in the world of work - building on existing skills, developing new ones and gaining in confidence.

The Pitman Training method of learning is completely flexible. Unlike traditional colleges or group-based courses, you can start learning whenever you're ready and work at the pace that suits you.

Pitman Training is not just about shorthand and typing. Courses range from basic computer skills (for the completely terrified!) to advanced secretarial diplomas and accounting.

Before starting a course, every learner has a free one-to-one consultation with a learning adviser to help them decide on the best course

them best, working around their existing work or family commitments.

A tutor is always on hand to answer questions and provide support and encouragement.

"You can get on with updating or developing your skills as quickly as you want to and then use them to take your career to the next level."

For more information please contact Leanne Waring, centre manager for Pitman Training in Cardiff, said: "My own experience as a learner has shown me very clearly that we all learn differently.

"A classroom environment can be intimidating for some people. Pitman Training courses are all self-paced so that learners can choose to work at the speed that suits them.

"You can start a course at any time and learners can choose the study times that suit

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GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update



Cylch Meithrin – opportunity knocks...



Cylch Meithrin Llantilltuud Fawr

A new Welsh learning Nursery/Playgroup for pre-school children
Opens Monday 24th January
at Western Vale Integrated Children's Centre,
Station Road, LLANTWIT MAJOR, CF611ST
To discuss more fully contact Emma on:
07908 308294 or e-mail:
cylchmeithrinllantilltuudfawr@gmail.com

Supported by the Vale Centre for Voluntary Services
through the Kick Start III Scheme

Learning disabilities daytime centre

DAYTIME Opportunity Day Centre offers a unique service for young adults with learning disabilities to socialise, make friends, improve skills, learn new skills and have fun.

A spokeswoman explained: "We offer a range of fully-staffed supported activities in small groups of two to six people."

"We provide a free pick-up and drop-off service in the Porthcawl and Bridgend area and a small charge for further

away. The service can be accessed for a full day or half day with weekend times more flexible."

"Tailor-made individual activity plans enable

HAVE you ever wished you could speak another language? Do you hope that your children will be bilingual one day?

In 2009, a survey of parents identified a shortfall in capacity for Welsh medium primary education.

In 2010, a group of parents with children

under the age of four years old got together to form a committee.

They identified the need for a Welsh programme for the preschool children in the community.

This local committee of Welsh and non-Welsh speakers will launch Cylch Meithrin, Llantilltuud Fawr on January 24, 2011 at Western Vale Integrated Children's Centre, Station Road, Llantwit Major.

In the bright, colourful and spacious room at the centre, a new Welsh medium will form.

Children will come from Llantwit Major and surrounding villages in the Vale to grow and develop their education and life skills under the Welsh medium.

If you would like further information or would like to discuss the opportunity for your child to attend a Welsh language nursery, please contact Emma of Cylch Meithrin, Llantilltuud Fawr, on 07908 308294; or email cylchmeithrinllantilltuudfawr@gmail.com.

New Day Service in Porthcawl for adults with learning disabilities

Opening in the new year offering a variety of activities, for clients aged 16+, such as art & crafts, pottery, photography music and day trips

Open Monday to Friday - 9am to 4pm Saturday & Sunday - 10am to 10pm

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Immaculate Cleaning Services is a south Wales-based company special-

ising in domestic cleaning and ironing, also offering a carpet cleaning service.

A spokeswoman said: "We cover Bridgend, the Valleys, Porthcawl and the Vale."

"Being a company of impeccable standards, Immaculate Cleaning Service has 100 per cent positive customer feed-

back and prides itself on its dedication, reliability and perfection."

One satisfied cus-

tomer said: "In nine years of having cleaners, no one has ever done as much for us as Immaculate Cleaning Services; they always go that one step further. We couldn't be happier. They really do leave your home immaculate!"

With competitive pricing and hard to beat quality, Immaculate Cleaning Services is a fast-growing business.

The spokeswoman pointed out: "We are also a perfect solution for busy working mums, helping to make their lives easier with the range of cleaning options that we offer."

"All staff are fully insured and Criminal Records Bureau checks can be provided if required. References are also available upon request."

"Why not call now for a free, no obligation quotation and start relaxing now? You won't regret it!"

"We will also be donating a percentage of all our monthly profits to one of the many charities that we support."

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BRIDES & GROOMS



Expert advice so important when booking your wedding photographs

PHOTOGRAPHS by
Mark Osman of Still Images

FOR most people, their wedding day is the most important of their lives – and capturing memorable images to be enjoyed in years to come is an important part in organising the big day.

Local photographer Mark Osman of Still Images says that with packages ranging from £250 to £2,500, depending on whether it is a small civil ceremony or a full church wedding with a large reception, people had to think carefully about what is right for them.

"As a photographer I always try not to be intrusive. My aim is to produce photographs that will bring back memories forever."

"I try to take the bride and groom away from the crowd for half an hour to gain some special shots on their own."

"One bit of advice I do give clients is to have a couple of meetings with the photographer and make sure they like not only his or her style of photography, but that they are the right person to be part of the big day."

"I offer a low booking fee of £50 and the remainder can then be split into three payments, the last one being after the wedding to try and spread the cost for the bride and groom."

"With all my packages, I offer a pre-shoot that can have a large white mount and the guests can sign it when attending the wedding."

"I have even been asked to do one of a couple in the sea – which was fantastic."

Mark can be contacted on 01446 678099 and welcomes people into his studio for a chat about their requirements.



Eternity with Love announce 'wedding fayre' programme



ETERNITY WITH LOVE would first of all like to wish you a 'Happy New Year' and congratulate you on your forthcoming wedding!

A spokeswoman explained: "We are very excited to introduce our new spring and summer wedding fayre event programme. Our first event of the season is at The Cardiff Marriott on Sunday, January 30.

"We are also delighted to be working exclusively with House of Fraser Wedding List in

Cardiff, who will be sponsoring all Eternity with Love bridal goody bags for our wedding fayres throughout 2011.

"Please visit our website www.eternity-with-love.co.uk for full details on our upcoming wedding fayres throughout south Wales."

Other dates for February and March 2011 include – St Mellons Hotel, Cardiff – Sunday, February 6, Coed-Y-Mwstwr Hotel, Coyauchur – Sunday, February 20, Bear Hotel, Cowbridge – Sunday, March 20, Caerphilly Castle – Sunday, March 27.

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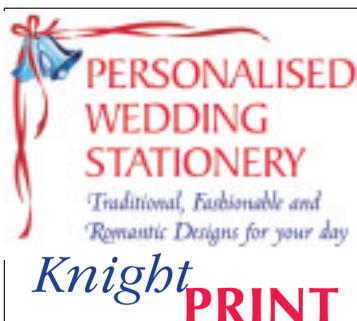
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Do you have a special event coming up soon, a wedding, a prom or birthday, but can't find the outfit you quite looking for. You've seen what you like but it's nowhere to be found. Then maybe we can help. Tell us what you like and we can make something perfect for you. Or maybe you have the outfit you want but it just needs a few alterations to make it a 'Perfect Fit'. No matter how big or small your sewing needs, I'm sure we can help you. Men, women, children we've even seen to your pets fashion!

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Thank you for saying you saw it in The GEM

LETTER FROM AMERICA

Need for the Vale to twin with Haiti...

I AM writing to endorse the letters you have previously received and published in The GEM from Godfrey Knight and Vincent Smith, regarding the potential of twinning the Vale or Barry with the town of Pignon in Haiti.

I am the friend whom Mr Smith references in his letter and I spent 12 weeks of 2010 working with the people of Pignon.

This letter is being sent to provide a brief glimpse into the conditions surrounding Pignon.

It is a town located in the central plateau region on the island of Haiti.

The town itself does have a political structure of mayors who attend to the typical civil issues that arise on a daily basis.

Pignon is receiving paved streets for the first time in its history, provided by the federal government.

There is also a co-operative effort being executed to provide a central water supply.

This co-operative effort is being worked out between the federal government and local

non-governmental agencies. These activities are cause for great hope in the town of Pignon.

The daily living conditions are very hard. There are a few public wells located in town that provide water to the residents.

However, these wells are only opened up for public use a couple of times per week, to prevent their collapse.

During the days that the wells are locked down, the residents have to travel to the river and carry back water to their homes.

The river also serves as the place to wash clothes, water animals and bathe.

The recent outbreak of cholera demonstrates the severe lack of sanitation in Haiti.

The economic conditions are bleak at best. The current unemployment rate in Pignon is around the 75 per cent mark.

Most residents survive by trading whatever goods they can in a form of barter exchange.

The outlook for almost all residents is day-to-day survival at best. There is very little present in the way of sustainable economic activity.

Having painted a bleak picture in the above paragraphs, I would be remiss not to mention the vibrant spirit and will that the Haitian people possess.

There are smiling faces everywhere that you look, and a will to survive that is second to none.

I can't say that I see as many smiling faces walking down a street here in the US.

In conclusion, I urge you to give serious consideration to the humanitarian and cultural rewards of the proposed twinning of your area with Pignon.

Eric Krob, Lisbon, Iowa 52253, USA

Freeze means repairs at the Market

THE main entrance to Maesteg Market should be re-opened this week once work to repair the stonework above it commences.

The entrance down the steps was closed before Christmas after some pieces of sandstone fell from the Town Hall which occupies the building above the basement market hall.

A spokesman for BCBC, which owns the building, said that the recent extremely cold weather has caused the problem and one of the market's three entrances had been closed for safety reasons.

Specialist contractors have now been appointed to carry out repairs and the door will be back in use as soon as scaffolding has been erected above it.

Work was due to start as soon as the scaffolding is in place.

Traders inside the market complained that the closure of this entrance had deterred some shoppers from using the market and they said that footfall was down.

Group enjoy festival delight

THE last month has been very hectic for members, with a carol service at Gilgal Baptist Church.

The minister gave a humorous sermon, which I'm sure signified the start of Christmas for everyone. We had our Christmas party, a sumptuous buffet prepared by the committee, and one member, Betty, won the cup for gaining the most points throughout the year.

Betty is our chief 'vote of thanks' giver, and poet! All the members visited the Christmas tree exhibi-

Harrowing tale keeps you glued to the screen

IF Danny Boyle was an excellent director lacking mainstream profile, then all that changed at the 2009 Academy Awards, when he picked up the best director statue for *Slumdog Millionaire*.

Since then, not only

has Boyle's reputation swelled, but the director has been touted for everything, from the next James Bond outing (rumours which turned out to be false) to being the artistic director for the opening ceremony of the 2012 Olympic Games (which turned out to be true).

Having sat on the success of *Slumdog...*, Boyle only now returns to the big screen with *127 Hours*.

It tells the true story of Aron Ralston (James Franco), a climber who became trapped between boulders for five days in 2003. With his life slipping away, Ralston is forced to make some huge sacrifices in order to keep himself alive...

Much like the proverbial bus, you wait for a film set in a single location and two come along pretty much after the other, but while the Ryan Reynolds-starring *Buried* was a fictitious tale of a man trapped in a coffin in Iraq, Danny Boyle's *127 Hours*, as harrowing as it is, is anything but a work of fiction, telling the story of how Aron Ralston's adventures canyoneering ended in tragedy.

In less skilled hands, Ralston's story could have been mishandled, a film where his trapping and attempts at rescue and escape are punctuated by dramatic devices that would have made the film far less of an engaging piece.

However, fresh from *Slumdog*'s Oscar success and the realisation that, yes, he is a pretty special director, Danny Boyle

SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

turns in another visually striking film that looks massively impressive.

Kicking things off with triple split screen and never letting up the pace from then on, the film is a wondrous achievement in regard to visual composition and editing, the early part of the film leading to Ralston's accident shot through with verve and panache.

Boyle's films have always bubbled with visual invention (the toilet sequence from *Trainspotting*, post-zombie London in *28 Days Later...*) and here he seems to have swapped the Capra-via-Bollywood visuals of *Slumdog...* to something more akin to David Fincher, the camera zooming through boulder crevices and water bottles.

But as visually stunning as the film is, it is when it gets to the meat of the story that what it loses in pace, it more than gains in drama and tension. Shifting from the vibrant colours and fast cuts to something more muted and languid, Boyle never paints Ralston's predicament as overtly dramatic; in fact, the character is remarkably unconcerned at his situation, seemingly viewing it more as a minor inconvenience than an endangering experience.

However, at this point Boyle and Simon Beaufoy's script changes tack, concentrating on the character as his realisation that he isn't going to escape merges with the slow-dawning realisation that he is far too much of a lone wolf, unreliant on the assistance of other people and, based on his exchanges with two fellow canyoneers (played by Kate Mara and Amber Tamblyn), far too caught up in his own world.

Using his hallucinations, caused by lack of food and water, to take you out of his predicament and into dream sequences that tap into the character's psyche, concentrating on the girl that he broke up with, his sister's wedding that

he isn't going to make, and all the people who have orbited his life, Boyle and Beaufoy plot a redemption for the character that takes an almost biblical twist with the conclusion.

Ah yes, the conclusion; by now most people will have read or heard how Ralston freed himself from the boulder, and the answer is yes – it is as visceral, difficult to watch and painful as you have heard. However, it isn't shown in an exploitative way, Boyle's camera cutting (pardon the pun) in and around the actual act – though it isn't for the faint-hearted, as the sounds of the crowd who I watched the film with attested to!

Given that it is a film that rests wholly on the shoulders of its main performer, James Franco steps up to the plate and delivers a home run in a turn that is captivating, engaging and wholly believable. His real-life persona of being a seemingly care-free guy bleeds into the character. Ralston being of the '...whatever, man' kind, and while Franco cruises the early part with charm and charisma, it's when the situation unfolds that he really shows his ability, handling his transformation from barely bothered to truly concerned with aplomb and subtlety, the enormity of his precarious position being slowly unveiled by the actor.

The film does lack a sense of urgency. The playing out between Ralston getting trapped and freeing himself never feels like a race against time or a man being pushed to the edge, even when his food and water supplies are low; instead, the character just seems to be bidding his time in the vain hope that help will come. While it doesn't subtract from the intentions of Boyle (giving the character a chance to 'redeem' himself), it does feel a touch odd that there isn't more of a panic in the character.

That being said, *127 Hours* is a sublime piece of work, superbly directed and incredibly well acted, and given the subject matter, rather uplifting – and, devoid of cliché, makes for a thoroughly captivating film.

VERDICT – Another success for Danny Boyle, *127 Hours* sees the director create a piece of work that is a strong telling of a harrowing true life story, yet is shot through with positivity and manages to avoid the genre types of the 'rescue' film.

With James Franco holding the fort with aplomb, this is one film that will engage from beginning to end. Essential viewing.

Health & Beauty

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Esporta winners

THE winner of our recent competition to win a month's pass to the Esporta Bridgend health club were: RE Farmer, Cowbridge; Joan Harland, Barry; R Turner, Llanwit Major and Valerie J Waline-Wills, Bridgend.

Congratulations to the winners. Look out for more great GEM competitions throughout 2011.

What are you weighting for?

A new year! Kids back in school? Time on your hands? Why not give yourself a lifestyle change, a little 'me' time?

Come along and train in our gym or free weights room, swim in our warm 25m pool, or just chill out in the jacuzzi/steam room or sauna – the choice is yours!

We are based in Fontygary Leisure park – so we have ample free parking – open from 8am every morning until 9pm each weekday evening, and 8am to 5pm at weekends.

The staff are very friendly, so don't worry, if you have never ventured into a gym before, we are here to help!

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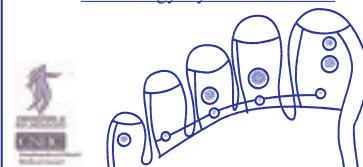
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Streetstars' invite is, 'Just turn up and get dancing!'

STREETSTARS are established street dance classes based in the Vale of Glamorgan and Cornelly.

The classes range from three years old to adult, and offer fresh and exciting choreography.

Recently, some of our Streetstars dance squads have appeared on *Got To Dance* and *Britain's Got Talent*, with two of our squads the reigning British Junior Champions and British Open Champions.

Later this year, we will be touring with Akai, Twisted and Pulse, Nemesis and many more.

Streetstars classes are paid weekly, with no term fees – and there is no waiting list, so you can just turn up and dance – it's as simple as that.

For more information on our classes, telephone 07974 904181, or go to our website popstarsdancelstudios.co.uk

THE ULTIMATE STREET DANCE CLASSES with the Reigning British Champions



Every Sunday

St Nicholas Hall,

BARRY

3pm - 4pm (3 to 5 yrs)

4pm - 5pm (6 to 10 yrs)

5pm - 6pm (11 to 17 yrs)

6pm - 7pm (Adults)

Every Friday

Town Hall, LLANTWIT MAJOR

4.30pm - 5.30pm (3 to 5 yrs)

5.30pm - 6.30pm (6 to 10 yrs)

Every Thursday Eisteddfod Avenue Church,

Off Redlands Road, PENARTH

5pm - 6pm (3 to 5 yrs)

6pm - 7pm (6 to 10 yrs)

7pm - 8pm (Adults)

Every Saturday Cornelly Community

Centre, NORTH CORNELLY

10.30am - 11.30 am (3 to 5 yrs)

11.30am - 12.30 am (6 to 10 yrs)

12.30am - 1.30pm (11-17 yrs)

Weekly payments - No term fees

For further information contact:

07974 904181 or visit

www.popstarsdancelstudios.co.uk

Let alternative treatments help 'revitalise' you

SARAH Renwick

invites you to the opening of her new clinic, offering alternative medical treatments that can help anyone with any disorder – back pain, headaches, injuries, digestive problems and sickness.

Sarah explained: "I offer a range of solutions such as acupuncture, various medical massage techniques, shiatsu and macrobiotic

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Call Sarah now on 01446 775066, to inquire about these competitive treatments, and also for a consultation to see how she can help you.

Sarah N. Renwick

M.BABTAC M.I.MSS AOBTA (App.MST) NCCAOM LAC

Practitioner of Oriental Medicine



Tel. 01446 775066

sarah@sarahshealthclinic.co.uk

Unit 12, Vale Business Park, Cowbridge, CF71 7PF

Let's dance, dance, dance!

COME dancing with Steve and Lynne at their new beginners' classes in salsa, cha-cha, jive and paso doble!

The classes are held at:

Highlight Park Community Centre, Barry (behind Tesco) every Thursday starting on January 13, 8pm-9pm (intermediate 9pm-10pm).

Just come along and bring your friends. Former pupils are very welcome too.

Remember, it's great fun and exercise, a way to lose weight and get fit fast!

Please check the web for more information at www.salsachacha.com. Only £5; students £4; tel 02920 758708 or 07866 551346.

Dance! Dance!! Dance!!!

Come dancing with Steve and Lynne at their NEW BEGINNERS CLASSES in SALSA/CHA-CHA/JIVE & PASO DOBLE at:

HIGHLIGHT PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE, BARRY, (behind Tesco's), every THURSDAY, starting JANUARY 13th between 8 - 9pm (Intermediate 9-10pm)

LOWER PENARTH COMMUNITY CENTRE, Brockhill Way, (opp Spar), PENARTH every MONDAY, starting JANUARY 10th, 8 - 9pm (Intermediate 9-10pm)

Just come along and bring your friends!!

Former pupils very welcome Check Web for more information

www.salsachacha.com

Only £5.00 - Students £4.00 Tel 02920 758708 or 07866 551346 Great fun & exercise, lose weight, get fit

Get inspired by one local family's weight loss success!

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www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/leisurecentres





ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

TRANSFORM YOURSELF FROM 'MUM-SIE' TO 'WOW-SIE'!

THE New Year is here, and you, your friends and family, should be pampering and treating yourselves after the busy hustle and bustle of Christmas.

Here at Bodywise, we have specialists in a variety of treatments which can transform you from 'work girl' to 'glam girl', or 'mum-sie' to 'wow-sie'!!

Treatments such as eyelash perming and tinting, lash flares, plus brow shaping and tinting.

Bodywise

Providing the Vale with a Professional and Luxurious Beauty Salon with Expert Therapists performing Specialised Treatments with accuracy and care. Happy New Year!

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54 Holton Road, Barry
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Minx

The benefits of owning a cat

HAVE you ever considered an older cat, instead of a kitten as a companion?

Medical research has indicated stroking a cat can relieve stress and lower blood pressure.

We have a number of cats looking for loving homes, aged from six months to eight years old.

Even a cat of eight years would have approximately another 10 years of life, which might suit a much older person and give loving companionship.

All our cats have been neutered and microchipped. Some are a little nervous as they are used to older

people who might have had to give them up to go into homes themselves, leaving their companion behind. These would adapt to a quiet, loving home environment.

Currently, we have an abundance of cats who are desperately in need of a new family or people to care for them.

For an appointment or further information, please telephone Maesteg Animal Welfare Society on 01656 721496, 01656 653456 or 01656 667463. Please leave a message on our answerphone if we are not available.

If you have any donations, bric-a-brac or any unwanted items, please call our shop on 01656 738977 / 721496.

MAESTEG ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY



Kittens, young and older cats – All needing a new family!

All cats have been neutered & microchipped
Tel: (01656) 667463

All our work is funded by Charity Shops. We sell bric-a-brac, books, clothes and all items of furniture. Donations always welcome.

Tel: 01656 721496 or 01656 653456
www.maesteganimalrescue.co.uk

Thanking everyone for their continued support

Your car has a regular service... but what about your body?

JUST like your car, your body runs at peak performance when it is maintained properly.

Loss of joint movement may be caused by your everyday lifestyle, through accident and injury, or just simple wear and tear which can lead to pain.

For example, you may have experienced: sporting injuries; workplace discomfort; stress and tension; poor posture;

ture; industrial injury; car accidents/whiplash; or pregnancy and child-birth.

Chiropractors specialise in the diagnosis, treatment, prevention and management of conditions that are due to mechanical dysfunction of the joints and muscles which account for 95 per cent of back pain.

See Optimal Chiropractic's advertisement for the special offers.

Telephone 07402 368153.

Are you in PAIN?



Chiropractic Can Help:

Back Pain - Sciatica - Headache - Neck Pain
Dizziness - Migraine - Shoulder, Elbow, Wrist and Arm pain - Whiplash - Hip, Knee, Ankle and Leg Pain - Postural Problems - Sports Injuries

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07402 368153

SPECIAL OFFER

Initial Consultation, Examination and Treatment for ONLY £25 with this advert (saving 50%)

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Thinking of a new career in caring?

THINKING OF A NEW CAREER?
Could you make a difference in someone's life?

Carers required in Cowbridge, Barry, Penarth and Llantwit Major areas

- No experience necessary.
- Training Provided.

Why not call for a friendly chat to discover more...

Telephone Lauren on **01446 760010**

www.AngelesCareServices.com

A NGELS
Care Services are looking for new recruits, due to their continued growth.

Our valued team of 65 carers are a very special group of people who enjoy caring for others, and helping them to lead an independent life.

Clients value the visits and friendship of our carers, most of whom worked outside the care sector before

joining Angels. Many now say they've found their true calling, having discovered personal fulfilment in caring for others.

To maintain the high quality of care we provide, new carers are fully trained and then supported through the study of appropriate NVQ qualifications.

If you would be interested in joining our team, or have any questions, why not visit www.AngelesCareServices.com or call Lauren on 01446 760010.

Help to get around house

R ECLINER chairs, wheelchairs, scooters, bath lifters, walking sticks, daily living aids...

Dolphin Independent Living has its range on show at its mobility showroom.

During the past nine years, Dolphin Lifts (South Wales) Ltd has gained a strong client base through reliable, friendly service and experienced engineers. The showroom is a

natural progression for Dolphin, giving the opportunity to provide the public with daily living aids, from kitchen utensils to scooters, all with the service you would expect from us.

If you have any questions, would like to receive a brochure, or to book an appointment, call our freephone number 0800 093 2293; or contact j.pearce@dolphin-lifts.co.uk

DOLPHIN Stairlifts

All our reconditioned stairlifts now with a NO QUibble 3 year guarantee

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Mobile Showroom at Unit 10, Cefncoed Street, Newport.
www.dolphin-lifts.co.uk

Banish your dry or damaged skin

COLD weather can be very damaging to the skin, so it is important to treat it right.

With that in mind, give yourself a new year treat! Laura has more than five years' experience in knowing what the skin needs, and using that knowledge has put together some great special offers!

Call 07785 931357 for appointments.

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Advanced Treatments, Advanced Results



'Lose 2 dress sizes in just 1 month'
at **HALF PRICE £720 down to £360**

The revolutionary i lipo is a low level laser that releases trapped fat cells from stubborn areas.

- Lose up to 2 dress sizes.
- Money back guarantee.
- Instant loss on first visit.
- No need to diet.
- Improve skin texture and get rid of cellulite.

Call the Skin Studio today to book your appointment.

Terms and conditions: Payment must be made in full at time of booking. Treatment must be started within 90 days of purchase. Half price offer ends 20th January 2011.

More than one deal can be bought per person.

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E: skinstudio@hotmail.co.uk

W: www.skinstudiodwales.com

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Holistic & Beauty Treatments

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January & February Offers

Aroma Essence Facial £22

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Service offered in the Vale of Glamorgan and surrounding areas.

If you are unable to leave the house unaccompanied, you are entitled to an eye exam in the comfort of your own home – free of charge, providing you are over 60 years of age or in receipt of benefits.

Private patients also welcomed.

Full range of frames and lenses available.

All spectacles delivered to your home and fitted by the optometrist himself.

If you or anybody you know would benefit from this service, please feel free to contact me ...

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Ease the pain...

BRACKLA family Chiropractic Clinic has been established for more than 15 years, providing specialist treatment for musculoskeletal complaints, such as neck and back pain, headaches and sciatica.

To see if chiropractic treatment can ease your pain, call one of our friendly team on 01656 767588, or visit: brackla-chiropractic.co.uk for further information.

Receive a special new year offer of just £15 for your initial consultation, examination and report of findings until February 15, 2011, when quoting The GEM.

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REPUTABLE, CARING, PROFESSIONAL AND WE'RE LOCAL...

- Acupuncture
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www.brackla-chiropractic.co.uk www.chiropractic4animals.co.uk

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Elfed Avenue Methodist Church
Elfed Avenue
Sarah 07525852288

DAY GROUPS
THURSDAY
Barry – 10.15am
Castieland Community Centre
Belvedere Crescent
Niki 01446 740394

Cowbridge – 10.00am
The Duke of Wellington High Street
Lina – 01656 890708

EVENING GROUPS
MONDAY
Barry – 4.30 & 6.30pm
Brynsion Hall,
Junction of Court Road &
Llanover street
Lorraine 01446 407002

WEDNESDAY
Barry – 4.45 & 6.45pm
St.Francis Millennium Centre
Park Rd, Porth-y-Castell
Annamarie 01446 736534

Barry – 6.00pm
Cadoxton Methodist Church
Church Road
Joanne 01446 404897

Cowbridge – 6.00pm
Duke of Wellington High Street
Lina – 01656 890708

THURSDAY
Barry – 6.00pm
Highlight Park Community Centre
Barry
Annamarie 01446 736534

Dinas Powys – 6.30pm
The Cabin,
by swimming pool
Hebron Hall
Alison 01443 486220

If 5 join together pay only £5 each!

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Shed pounds, tone, and release stress!

JOIN Christian's fun-fuelled Zumba Fitness class this January and see the fantastic benefits for your mind and body!

Following your male instructor, you will move to hypnotic Latin-American rhythms at your own pace, while shedding the pounds, toning the body and releasing the stress.

It's been described as exercise in disguise, because the class is so much fun.

People of all ages (over 16) are welcome to turn up to any of our venues and join the party! Classes are £4 each, or £6 for two within the same week!

For more information visit:
www.zumbabarry.co.uk or call 07736 929514.

IT'S EXERCISE IN DISGUISE!

ZUMBA BARRY

JOIN OUR JANUARY FITNESS CHALLENGE
AND SHAKE OFF THE CALORIES!

£4 a session or £6 for 2 in same week!

TUES: WINDSOR RD CHURCH @ 18:30
(OPPOSITE MOUNT SINAI HOTEL)

THURS: THE YMCA HUB @ 19:15
(DANCE STUDIO)

SAT: ST.JOHN'S HALL @ 12:30
(END OF BERYL ROAD)

ALL CLASSES ARE 60 MINS.

FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT
www.zumbabarry.co.uk or call 07736 929514

Lose Weight! Feel Great!

Proof that community spirit is alive and well!



Ron O'Leary and Iwan Lewis.

Resident Sue Bradshaw Jones, who took the picture, got stuck in too!

ABOVE:
Community spirit in full effect.

COWBRIDGE AREA BRIDGE CLUBS NEWS

RECENT results Norris 53.65.

Cowbridge and District Bridge Club

(Tuesday, January 4)

First, Hugh Williams

and Gordon Berrey,

68.13 per cent; second,

Barbara and Colin

Easterbrook 64.38;

third, Mary Wallis and Myrtle Hansard 57.50;

fourth, Teri Pollard and David Wright 55.63;

fifth, Diana Lewis and Rita Williams 53.75;

sixth, Mearl Owen and Debbie Rosevear 53.13.

DW

The close is a popular choice to reside for those of a certain age but there is a fantastic sense of neighbourliness and support for each other, but especially towards the very elderly or less mobile residents.

Having a break from shovelling the snow and chipping the ice are, from left to right: Pat and Ian Drew, Mary and

Out and About with The GEM

The Vale joins in marking 'Holocaust Memorial Day'

HOLOCAUST Memorial Day 2011 will be commemorated by an exhibition and a film premiere in the Vale – all part of the 'Untold Stories Holocaust Memorial Day 2011 – A First National Event for Wales'.

Young people tell of their great grandparents' and other family members' World War II experiences. The Vale Council, in partnership with the Welsh Assembly Government, Holocaust Memorial Trust, the Simon Wiesenthal Centre of Los Angeles, and the Memorial Hall and Theatre Barry, have worked together to develop the programme for the event.

People from across the

The exhibition started

Free course at enterprise centre

COURSES at the Community Enterprise Centre, Skomer Road, Barry, include 'Moving On', a programme that helps people gain skills and confidence for employment, further learning or volunteering.

The free course works on confidence, assertiveness and communication skills. It takes place 9.30am – 2.30pm for one day a week for six weeks.

For further information, telephone Sandra, Alyson or Bev, on 01446 733034

country were invited to share their 'Untold Stories' to mark the national event for Wales.

Art Central in Barry, the Vale Council's art gallery, is hosting an exhibition of the 'Untold Stories' that were submitted, including local and national stories, poems, photography, DVDs and art works.

Young people tell of

their great grandparents' and other family members' World War II experiences. The Vale Council, in partnership with the Welsh Assembly Government, Holocaust Memorial Trust, the Simon Wiesenthal Centre of Los Angeles, and the Memorial Hall and Theatre Barry, have worked together to develop the programme for the event.

People from across the

The exhibition started

Sully resident Eileen Youngusband also recounts her experiences as a World War II V2 rocket spotter, alongside many other, moving and fascinating personal tales.

The film focuses on Winston Churchill's years in the political wilderness, his early opposition to Hitler's rule, his support for Jews under threat by the Nazi regime, his return to government, and ascension to the Prime Minister's office in 1940.

Free tickets for the film premiere can be booked on the theatre website memorialhalltheatre.co.uk or by calling 01446 738622.

At the premiere, there will also be the chance to see the artwork 'Journey Line' by conflict and war artist Nicola Tucker, whose work has been greatly influenced by the heartbreaking tragedy and horror of the Holocaust.

SOS appeal goes out to local blood donors

THE Welsh Blood Service has issued an urgent appeal for blood donors of groups O Rhesus Positive, A Rhesus Positive or O Rhesus Negative.

"The recent bad weather, combined with winter colds and flu, has seriously reduced our blood stocks," explained Dr Geoff Poole, Director.

"During the snow, we had a shortfall of over 1,000 donations, which we now need to replace. "To rebuild our stocks we need at least 600 people to come forward every day throughout January.

"We cannot meet the needs of our hospitals without the support of the people of Wales. At this difficult time, we need your support more than ever."

Visits www.welsh-blood.org.uk or call 0800 25 22 66 to find a session near you.

"Our blood stocks are at a seriously low level and we are making an urgent appeal for regular donors to make every effort to attend their next scheduled donation clinic during January.

"We are also appealing to those donors who have not donated for a while, and members of our communities who have not donated before, to come forward and make a lifesaving donation.

"To increase blood stocks the Welsh Blood Service is extending the opening times of some of its regular clinics and is also holding special blood donation clinics across Wales."

Tony said: "I'd like

High street raffle winner



HIGH Street Traders

at Barry recently announced the December winner of their monthly raffle which helps to raise money for events in High Street.

Anthony Hopkins, the chairman of High Street Traders, is pictured above, with lucky winner Mrs Morgan and Tony Grattan of Tony's Café, who sold the winning ticket.

Tony said: "I'd like

to thank everyone who bought a raffle ticket throughout the year; if it wasn't for you, our events would not be possible.

"I'd also like to say

FREE GIG BY VINYL EYES

THIS Saturday (January 15) 'The Vinyl Eyes', Barry's newest covers band, will play live at the Park Hotel, Park Crescent, Barry.

The band play a wide selection of rock covers, from old classics like the Rolling Stones, the Kinks, the Beatles and the Doors, to more modern hits from the Verve, Oasis, Kings of Leon and others.

It was formed by lead singer Ali Price, who moved to south Wales in 2008 from Bangor. Leon Hartley (on lead guitar) and Gareth Davies (on drums) from London and Carmarthen respectively, complete the line-up – along with local Barry musician Matt Blumberg (on bass and vocals).

The evening kicks off at 8pm and admission is FREE! For more information about the band, visit www.myspace.com/thevinelyeyes

The GEM and Ferris Entertainment offer a unique opportunity to local performers!

Win a scholarship for acting, singing and dancing...

GEM/Ferris Entertainment Voucher
valid for

FREE MASTERCLASS

Your chance to learn from world class tutors in Screen-acting and Dance

JANUARY 15th from 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm
at Stanwell Hall, Victoria Road, Penarth
(Opposite Station Approach)

Participants must be 10 years of age or over.

ABOVE: Take this voucher along to the GEM/Ferris Entertainment free masterclass for the chance to win a term's free tuition.

FOLLOWING the great success over the last three years of the GEM/Ferris Entertainment Scholarship, two more lucky GEM readers – one male and one female – will be given the chance of a free term of tuition worth £155.

At Ferris Entertainment Performing Arts Saturday Classes the talented winners will be taught screen acting by teachers who have taught the likes of Martine McCutcheon, Louise Redknapp, Claire Sweeney, Claire Goose, Sheree Murphy and Russell Brand to

name but a few! Peter Ferris explained: "All you have to do is present your voucher from The GEM when you sign in at the free masterclass.

"You will then be given a badge to identify you to the teachers and principals of Ferris Entertainment Performing Arts.

"At the end of the masterclass two lucky GEM readers will be chosen by the teachers and awarded the scholarship.

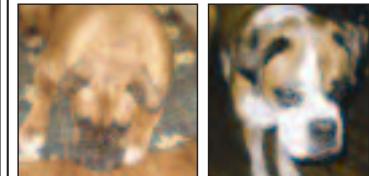
"Other participants will be offered the opportunity to enroll for the term."

The former scholarship winners have been Jemma Birkett (2008), Elliott Ismail (2009) and Verity Campbell and

Jimmy Webster (2010). Jemma, Elliott and Verity have just appeared in the film 'Audition for a Vampire' which will be previewed at film festivals in 2011..

The free masterclass will be held at the Stanwell Hall, Victoria Road next to the Padget Rooms, Penarth on Saturday January 15 from 2pm - 5pm. Those aged from 10 years old to over-18s are welcome to attend.

For further information, or to have directions emailed to you, please contact Peter Ferris, Ferris Entertainment on 07801 493 133 or via email: info@ferrisentertainment.com.



The GEM Winter Pet Food Appeal

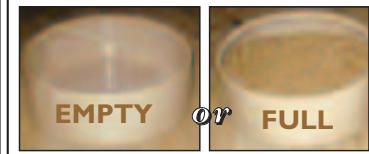
sponsored by



More than ever, our local animal shelters are under massive strain to home and feed an ever growing number of pets, that, for one reason or another, are no longer in their own homes.

Most pet owners treat their pets as part of the family and will even be including them in the family Christmas presents!

If you can help feed a sheltered animal this winter, please bring your pet food donation to The GEM in Cowbridge and we will get it to one of the local shelters.



Thank you, from all the animals!

BBC National Orchestra of Wales
Cardiff
Corddoria
Gwylodol
Gymreig y BBC

Cardiff Concert Season
Tymor Cyngorol Cymru
2010/11

John Adams
Harmonielehre

St David's Hall, Cardiff
Nesadd Dewi Sant, Caerdydd

BRAHMS Piano Concerto No 2 /
Concerto Piano Rhif 2
JOHN ADAMS Harmonielehre
Conductor / Arweinydd Thierry Fischer
Piano Lars Vogt

FRIDAY / GWENER
28.01.2011
7pm
Tickets / Tocynau
£10 – £25

029 2007 8444

BBC National Orchestra of Wales Audience Line
Llinell Cyngorol y Cymroedd i Lywodraeth Lloegr a'r BBC
0800 052 1812

NEWS FROM THE PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

From medieval Cowbridge town to the Heritage Trial

Ten walkers, including one from the Caerphilly area, joined Rachel for a walk in the picturesque Vale of Glamorgan on Bank Holiday Monday, to celebrate the New Year.

They began at Cowbridge or Y Bont Faen (meaning stone bridge) which lies on the site of a Roman settlement and was one of the few medieval walled towns in Wales and the remnants of the walls and towers are still visible.

Built to a medieval plan with one long street, it was divided into burgage plots, a burgage being a rented property owned by a King or lord, consisting of a house on a long narrow piece of land with the narrow end facing the street.

Leaving Cowbridge cattle market, they progressed under the flyover and up a rocky slope which led them to an electric fence. Having negotiated that, the group entered fields walking past a wood at Beech Clump and across The Park which is directly in front of Penllyn Castle which sits on a rocky escarpment above the Thaw Valley.

The original castle was probably built by Robert Norris, who was Earl Robert of Gloucester's sheriff in the 12th century, and it is believed to be one of the first Norman keeps in Glamorgan.

The present house, built in the 1770s was remodelled by John Homfray the owner of the Pentydarren Ironworks in Merthyr Tydfil, who bought the estate in 1846 and built the chapel which is now the parish church for

Penllyn and is located just inside the castle grounds.

Homfray was also responsible for the beautiful woodland that surrounds the house, which in 1960 was sold to the Cory family.

Having paused to hear a brief history of the area, the group carried on across what used to be the annual Vale of Glamorgan showground and reached the church.

A stop was soon made to enjoy mulled wine from Liz and mince pies from Ann.

Refreshed, the group road-walked towards Vista Farm, spotting a llama in a field of sheep, before turning off down a winding forest track to join the road that led to Graig Penllyn. Having passed the Barley Mow and former chapel spotting gravestones along the wall, they walked through the village.

From the nature reserve below Coed y Graig, they went down a slope near Coed y Stanby woodland to join part of Valeways Millennium Heritage Trail, created as a circular route that meanders for 69-miles through the Vale of Glamorgan, where you can walk through 6,000-years of history and stunning beauty.

Reaching the road, they crossed and went straight up through Graig Wood, where sofa-sized cut logs made it the perfect place to pause and enjoy lunch in comfort, whilst gazing at the surrounding trees, leaves and undergrowth that were all dusted with a layer of fine snow.

Before they got too comfortable, it was time to tramp on to Newforest House Farm and along the lane to re-join Valeways trail that led through a pine wood where they turned south.

SWEET LINFORD LOVES TO RUN!

The GEM is in partnership with the Dogs Trust to find homes for animals at the Bridgend rehoming centre (telephone 01656 724593).

This week, a spokeswoman focuses on Linford a three-year-old Lurcher, who, as the name suggests, loves to run!

"He is a very sweet, loving boy, and would love to live with another dog. He would like a quiet home, with someone who will be at home with him, play fun games with him, and take him for regular off-leash exercise."

"He is house-trained, and gets on well with



LINFORD

other dogs. If you think you can offer Linford the home he is looking for, please call 01656 725219, or visit us at Dogs Trust, Court Colman, Pen-y-fai, Bridgend".

You can see Linford and some of his friends at www.dogstrust.org.uk

Rhoose WI members learn about Red Cross work home and abroad

RHOOSE WI held their monthly meeting on January 6 at the village hall.

Members welcomed the return of their president, Ann Harris, who thanked everyone for their good wishes during her recent indisposition.

After receiving welfare reports and the apologies of absentees, the members settled down to listen to a talk given by Jeff Collins, Director of the Red Cross in Wales.

After stressing the need for donors to give money, rather than items of clothing or bedding which are expensive and cumbersome to ship to overseas disaster areas, Mr Collins told his listeners about the role of the Red Cross in Wales itself.

Many had little idea of the amount of involvement in emergency situations, such as the recent bad weather or in social service care. Mr Collins said that the

Red Cross and the WIs must work together to provide help in the community.

The final part of the evening was devoted to dealing with plans for 2011. Members were asked to vote on proposed resolutions.

These included: opposition to 'mega-farms' for dairy cattle; encouragement for the farming of daffodils to provide help for the sufferers of Alzheimer's; opposition to the closure of libraries; the extension of the Admiral nurses network for dementia care; and legislation regarding the use of cycling helmets and mobility scooters.

The final selection of one of these resolutions will take place in May.

Members were reminded that Rhoose will be the host for their local group of WIs. Planned events include a social evening in April, a tea party in July and a carol service in December.

Eileen Eeles won the

month's competition and Ann Harris the raffle.

The next meeting of Rhoose WI will take place at the village

hall, Stewart Road, Rhoose on February 3 at 7.30pm. Visitors welcome.

Planned events: Skittles afternoon at JJ

Rhoose Social Club on January 21 at 2pm; Lunch Club at the Star Inn, Dinas Powys on January 28 at 12.30pm JJ

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT, 1990

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG DEDDF CYNLLUNIO (ADEILADAU RHESTREDIG AC ARDALOEDD CADWRAETH) 1990

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:

HYSBYSIR trwy hyn i geisiadau gael eu gwneud i'r Cyngor am ganiantâd cynllunio ar gyfer y datblygiadau canlynol:

Development in Conservation Areas Datblygiad mewn Ardalodd Cadwraeth

Application No./
Rhif y cais:
Proposal/Cynnig:
Location/Lleoliad:
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth

2010/01354/FUL
Erection of detached three bedroom dwelling with integral garage
Land adjacent Beachcomber, Lakeside, The Knap, Barry
Barry (Marine)

Development that might affect the setting of a Listed Building Datblygiad a allai effeithio ar amgylchedd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No./
Rhif y cais:
Proposal/Cynnig:
Location/Lleoliad:
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig

2010/01344/FUL
New workshop and store to replace the former workshop and stores now collapsed
Cwrt yr Ala House, Michaelston le Pit
Grade II

Development that might affect the setting of a Conservation Area Datblygiad a allai effeithio ar amgylchedd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No./
Rhif y cais:
Proposal/Cynnig:
Location/Lleoliad:
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth

2010/01331/FUL
New front boundary wall and paving for driveway.
Alterations and extension of garden store and rear boundary wall to form habitable accommodation.
The Beeches, Windsor Terrace Lane, Penarth

Application No./
Rhif y cais:
Proposal/Cynnig:
Location/Lleoliad:
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth

2010/01341/FUL
Proposed residential development of 14 No. residential units and associated development
Land adjacent to the A48, St. Nicholas
Affecting the St. Nicholas

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995 GORCHYMYN CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF (TREFN DATBLYGIAD CYFFREDINOL) 1995

Application(s) that may be of General Public Interest Ceisiadau a allai fod o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol i'r Cyhoedd

Application No./
Rhif y cais:
Proposal/Cynnig:
Location/Lleoliad:

2010/01341/FUL
Proposed residential development of 14 No. residential units and associated development
Land adjacent to the A48, St. Nicholas

Application No./
Rhif y cais:
Proposal/Cynnig:
Location/Lleoliad:

2010/01355/FUL
Residential development comprising 1 no. 2 person 1 bed disabled flat and 11 no. 3 person 2 bed flats and relocation of existing access road
68-84, Merthyr Street, Barry

Application(s) which might affect a Public Right of Way Ceisiadau a allai effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No./
Rhif y cais:
Proposal/Cynnig:
Location/Lleoliad:

2010/01341/FUL
Proposed residential development of 14 No. residential units and associated development
Land adjacent to the A48, St. Nicholas

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vogplanning-register.co.uk. Mae'r holl fanylion (gan gynnwys y cynlluniau) i'w gweld yn swyddfeidd y Pennaeth Cyfyllion a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y dudalen) yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, am gyfnod o 21 o ddiwrnodau. Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrest Ceisiadau Ar-lein y cyngor drwy fynd i vogplanning-register.co.uk.

Dated: 13 January, 2011

Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office,
Barry Docks,
Barry
CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 13 Ionawr, 2011
Rob Thomas
Pennaeth Cyfyllion a Chludiant
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Swyddfa'r Doc,
Dociau'r Barri,
Y Barri
CF63 4RT

Jobseekers claim prize – and a job!

LUCKY jobseekers Michael Mark and Jane Huxter scooped a prize and a job - thanks to BTCV.

The social enterprise group held a prize draw giveaway for jobseekers getting back into the local labour market.

All BTCV customers who started work in November were automatically entered for a chance to win a bike, a mobile phone or a digital camera.

A spokeswoman said: "Jobseekers are referred to BTCV once they have been claiming Jobseekers Allowance for 12 months or more. This could be for many reasons, one being barriers to work that need breaking down."

"BTCV assists with overcoming these barriers by helping jobseekers to engage with employers to offer 'Trials of Work', financial assistance, re-training and development, and by offering an *Ein-Work* Support, to ensure jobseekers manage to remain in work."

Coun Christopher Elmore of Barry attended the prizegiving to present Michael and Jane with their prizes.

BRYNCETHIN MINI AND JUNIOR RUGBY ROUND-UP

Freeze is over and young teams get back in the groove at last!

Under-12s

Bryncethin under-12s dominated the first half with scores from Ieuan Davies and Christian Jones making it 14-0 at half time.

The second half saw Pontyclun break through the Bryncethin defence to score their first try, and shortly after, they drew level at 14-14.

The last five minutes of the game, however, saw Bryncethin sneak a crucial winning try.

Final score: Bryncethin 19 - Pontyclun 14.

It was a very good game on both sides with Bryncethin just managing to win.

Man of the match: Jack Ladler

Match day squad: Adam John (captain), Liam Morgan, Ieuan Davies, Jacob Walters, Corey Rogers, Christian Jones, Morgan Howells, Jack Ladler, Connor Ford, Henry Clark, Owen Jones, Nicholas Morgan, Leon Sylvester and Sam Harding

Under-11s

Bryncethin under-11s were entertained away from home by Treorchy. In the first half, Bryncethin showed how rusty they were from not having played or trained for a number of weeks due to the weather, and Treorchy played good rugby taking a deserved lead.

However as the game progressed Bryncethin started to show signs of their earlier season form.

The second half started with a much more passionate display from Bryncethin and they threatened from a good break, but Treorchy counter-attacked and

scored again.

Bryncethin fought back and scored a try by Emry Watkins after good support from the whole team. They scored a second through hard tackling and support work, with Dafydd Evans gathering and going over.

Iwan Veasey was unlucky not to get a third try and Dafydd Evans kicked both conversions.

After a sticky start it was good to see a glimmer of a return to form. Captain for the day was Emry Hunnam, and deservedly man of the match was Owen Hart.

Final score: Bryncethin 21 - Pontyclun 28.

Man of the match: Joshua Thomas - An excellent display from Joshua in what was his first game for Bryncethin.

Match day squad: Tobias Hunt (captain), Daniel Osarigie, Aaron Thomas, Scott Ryall, Jack Thomas, Ethan Hopkins, Luke Board, Joshua Thomas, Finlay Mullens, Josh Napper, Morgan Stevens, Keiran Dixon and Rhys Davies.

Under 10s

After the enforced break, it was feared that Bryncethin under-10s might struggle against a well-drilled Pontyclun side that had played the week before.

However, it was difficult to determine who hadn't played since November as Bryncethin dominated possession and territory. It was against the run of play that Pontyclun went the length of the pitch to open the scoring.

Bryncethin came back strongly with super interplay leading to tries for Tobias Hunt and Ethan Hopkins. Both were converted by Scott Ryall to establish a 14 - 7 lead.

Pontyclun were starting to find their stride now and managed to level just before half

The second half got underway with Treorchy

scoring again.

Bryncethin responded

with a try from Ieuan

Davies, followed by a

try from Dafydd Evans.

Bryncethin then took

the lead with a try from

Emry Watkins.

Treorchy responded

with a try from Jack

Ladler.

Bryncethin then took

the lead with a try from

Emry Hunnam.

Treorchy responded

with a try from Ethan

Hopkins.

Bryncethin then took

the lead with a try from

Keiran Dixon.

Treorchy responded

with a try from Scott

Ryall.

Bryncethin then took

the lead with a try from

Ethan Hopkins.

Treorchy responded

with a try from Jack

Ladler.

Bryncethin then took

the lead with a try from

Keiran Dixon.

Treorchy responded

with a try from Scott

Ryall.

Bryncethin then took

the lead with a try from

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TEAM NOTCH UP 68 POINTS AS...



South Wales Police run riot against Blaengarw



Calum Rogers looks to offload to Gary Money in support.



ABOVE: Ryan Miles attacks the gap.

SOUTH WALES ran the ball wide on every occasion, with Karl Jones marshalling the backs brilliantly. They ran in further tries from Jason Davies, Craig Chalmers, Gerald Hodgson, Karl Jones and second row Chris Price (a hat-trick).

Blaengarw are going through a rough period in their illustrious history at present, but they are a proud club with a great valley spirit and without doubt if they continue to pull together their results will soon improve. Their commitment was something they can take into their next league fixture.

The Police opened the scoring with a Ryan Miles penalty and extended their lead with a try from Wil Alston. Miles added the extra two points. However, Blaengarw kept pushing the Police and got their first points with a well-taken penalty from outside-half Jamie Evans.

The Police started to get the upper hand and

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS
by GARETH DAVIES.



Lee Roderick on his way to a second try.



Garw's Deryn Lloyd on the attack.



RIGHT: Ryan Miles looks to make another break.

BS

Athletic under-14s start new year with two wins out of two

B R I D G E N D
Athletic under-14s made the New Year journey to Abercrafre at the top of the Swansea Valley determined to improve on their poor run of form in 2010.

The six-week break due to the snow seemed to be a positive thing for the Bridgend boys, who were keen to take it to their hosts on the field with a much more committed and determined display than of old.

The Ath started well and strong runs in and around the Abercrafre 22 caused the home team problems.

The first scrum was a plus for the Athletic who pushed their opponents backwards off their ball, only for it to be reset by the referee. It was that trait which continued throughout the game as the Athletic pack dominated in that area, thanks to the front row of Jack Deere, Cian House, hooker Toby Galliers, and second rows Curtis Daniel and Connor Browne.

The home side opened the scoring after 10 minutes by going through a number of phases, eventually exploiting the Ath's lack of numbers out wide for the winger to score in the corner. The try went unconverted.

Back came the Athletic who began to build good field position by keeping hold of the ball, something they had struggled to do efficiently prior to Christmas. Jack Hogan scored at the corner.

Both teams continued to probe and the home team went ahead yet again when a quality move in midfield deceived the Ath defenders for a converted try beneath the posts.

Not to be outdone, the Athletic backline struck back before the break when Craig Lewis dribbled the ball over the line and pounced on it to bring the scores back to within two points, with Abercrafre leading 12-10 at half time.

During the second half, the Bridgend boys upped their game, their dangerous backs running hard and the forwards showing great energy, probing the fringes at the breakdown, controlled well by scrum half Tom McArdle.

Outside half Harrison Evans, playing in his first game for the Athletic and centre Craig Lewis kept Abercrafre pinned back inside their own half for much of the remaining game.

Stand-in hooker Galliers was held up over the line right beneath the Aber posts

Abercrafre 12 Bridgend Athletic 28

and he continued to be a nuisance, carrying ball at every opportunity, as did No 8 Matthew Bennett and second row Curtis Daniel, both players getting over the gain line with good support from the other two back rowers Adam Lang and Lewys Smith, who had solid games.

Wing Ashton Chalmers came on to finish a flowing passing move across the backline to score in the corner, his fifth try of the season, before Jack Hogan got his second, again from a quality passing move forwards and backs.

Craig Lewis slotted a penalty from the 22 and he finished off the Ath's points tally late in the game, shooting between two defenders for his brace, and the Athletic's fifth try of the day.

Captain Tom Pritchard made a number of determined runs, and Shane Howells, Ollie Davies, Rory Nicholls and Callum Matthews all gave committed performances.

There were excellent debuts from Harrison Evans, who looked very comfortable and composed playing at 10, and from Jack Laesser who slotted into the pack well during the second half.

Congratulations to all of the Ath boys on a much improved performance, and one which players and coaches can continue to build on throughout 2011.

Many thanks to Paul and his boys for giving us a strong and competitive game and to Lyndsey for refereeing very well, and we look forward to the visit of Abercrafre to Newbridge Fields later on in the season.

Bridgend Athletic under-14s 21 Pentyrch 17
BRIDGEND Athletic were looking to follow up on their win the previous week against Abercrafre when they invited Pentyrch to Newbridge Fields at the weekend.

Pentyrch were finalists in the Cardiff and Vale District Tournament and had beaten the Ath convincingly at the end of last season, so a tough encounter was expected.

The Athletic pack had the upper hand in the set piece, despite the Pentyrch pack looking the much bigger unit.

The visitors began to win possession and attempted to get the ball wide at every opportunity, and after only three minutes, the ball was spread from right to left for the flanker to score a converted try.

The Ath learnt from that and began to keep

constantly disrupting the Pentyrch throw.

Alex Thomas came into tight head and had an impressive game, as did Jack Deere, who had started the game and anchored the scrum strongly.

The Bridgend boys continued to press and Harrison Evans took the ball into contact in mid-field. He was half tackled but continued to show the aggression and determination needed to stay on his feet as the Ath pack gathered around him and drove him over the try line near the posts for what was his first try for the club, converted by Craig Lewis.

In the back line, Jack Leyshon showed great line speed in defence and handling skills in attack, as did Ollie Davies, who came into the game at 10 during the second half and helped control matters.

Mathew Hughes came on and distributed well at nine and Rory Nicholls had a number of great clearance kicks under pressure from full back. Up front, Callum Linehan-Burke took over from Toby Galliers at hooker and found his targets well and Jack Laesser made a number of very important tackles late in the game after he replaced Connor Browne at second row.

As the game drew to a close, a couple of yellow cards were dished out for both sides which the visitors duly capitalised on to score at the corner, and just before the final whistle, the Pentyrch prop stole a ball from a ruck on the Ath five-metre line from right under the nose of the referee and rumbled over to score a third Pentyrch try.

The conversion hit the upright as the final whistle blew, which marked an extremely hard earned and deserved victory for the Athletic boys - their first win at Newbridge Fields this season. Congratulations to all of the players involved.

Thanks to Dave, the coaches and the Pentyrch boys and good luck to them for the remainder of the season - we hope to visit Pentyrch during the under-15 season starting in September.

TB

CALLING CLUB OFFICIALS!

We welcome your club news, views and other items of interest -
email:gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Read us online at: bridgend-today.co.uk or porthcawl-today.co.uk



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www.dangraceaerials.co.uk**Call 01446 774 484****The GEM**

ADVERTISING IN THE GEM WORKS!

Many of our advertisers have used The GEM for years. This speaks volumes. Some are lucky enough to have a great response by placing just one advert, but series advertising reaps regular business...

"YOU HAVE TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT"

Give us a call now - **01446 774484**

Cleaning Services

LLANTWIT MAJOR CLEANING SERVICES

Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning
Average Carpet £35 3-Piece Suite £70
DIY Hire Service 1/2 Day £10, 24 hours £15
- FREE DELIVERY -

Tel. Llantwit Major 796227

1st CHOICE CLEANING SERVICES

- Clean/Sanitise Carpets and Upholstery
- Pet Odour/Stain Removal
- Protective Treatments
- Leather suite cleaned & fed
- Local, reliable & Professional

NO VAT
01446 737695
07930 157952

ABCARPET CLEANING

- Residential
- Commercial
- End of Tenancy

Free Estimates
01446 418319
07773 187915
www.abcarpetcleaning.co.uk

Carpet Services

VALE CARPETS

The Carpet Shop that comes to you
100's of Carpet & Vinyl samples
Established since 1980
Also Carpet, Upholstery Cleaning

Tel: Paul Wright
01446 751152
07811 092477

Computer Services

HD Computer Solutions

- All problems fixed
- Fast, reliable, on-site service
- Friendly advice freely given
- No fix, no fee
- Free callout

Tel 01446 773158
07779 713604 anytime

Computer Problems?

WE FIX THEM

crystal-it
01446 731231

Home Visits
Computer HELP when YOU need IT
Crystal IT Services Ltd

Carpet - Vinyl Fitting Service

CALL TIM JENKINS ON
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01446 750331

AB COMPUTER SERVICES

TUITION - BROADBAND WIRELESS NETWORKS REPAIRS & INSTALLATION

For home or office

Tel: 07811 422 946
27 High St, Cowbridge

www.cowbridge-it.co.uk

Computer Services

lure-IT Tel: 01446 733201
Mob: 07889 828855
No Fix No Fee www.lureit.co.uk

Repairs & Upgrades
Home Visits
PC Health Checks
Computer & Internet Security
Virus Removal + Much More!
Maintenance Contracts Welcome

info@lureit.co.uk

Thank you for saying you saw it in The GEM

THE GEM - 29

THE GEM - 29

TESTIMONIAL 'Start Afresh' Cleaning Services

Following on from placing my first advert in The GEM I thought you may like to know that I've had a great response! I received lots of initial enquiries from Llantwit Major and Barry which converted into 6 jobs within the first 2 days of The GEM being printed. Thank you again for your assistance and advice which is invaluable for a new business.

LOUISE LEWIS

Tel. 07964 179 473

TESTIMONIAL



Advertising with The GEM has proved to be most successful in the promotion of my business.

Thank You.

Spot On!

Tel. 07854 148 236

TESTIMONIAL

B. W. Construction & Property Maintenance

I have been running my advert consistently for a number of years and would recommend The GEM without hesitation.

Thank you.
Brett Warren,
BW Construction.

07742 572731

Double Glazing

WINDOW AND DOOR REPAIR SERVICE

OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN ALL ASPECTS OF UPVC AND ALUMINIUM WINDOW AND DOOR REPAIR

Do you have any of the following problems...?

Misted-up Double Glazing • Broken Hinges
Seized Patio Door Rollers • Faulty door Locks
Seized Handles • Draughts • Broken Letter Box • Leaks, etc
If so phone for a free estimate and advice

FREEPHONE COWBRIDGE 0800 169 5171

We offer a competitive and friendly service to the Vale and surrounding area

TRY US FOR NEW UPVC WINDOWS AND DOORS

8 am - 8 pm (7 days)

Window Tec UK

• Window and Door Repair •

Are you thinking of improving your home?
VAT frozen for January

Visit our brand new showroom now open
9am - 9pm in Bridgend 7 days a week

SPECIAL OFFER
Bevelled Front Doors £550
• Windows & Door Repairs available 7 days
• 6 Windows fitted from £1995
• Doors fitted from £399
• Conservatories from £5500

Our energy efficient windows and doors could save you up to £295.00 off your fuel bills

Free Vertical Blinds with all full house windows and doors fitted before February

GARAGE CONVERSIONS FROM £5,000

FREE QUOTATIONS
All conservatories fitted before February come with FREE tiling and underfloor heating.

Free argon gas filled energy windows when you order this month only - So order NOW!

FAMILY RUN BUSINESS Network VEKA - Reliable in the extreme

M.P.N. Call 01446 439212 or 01656 648464 www.mpnwindows.com

UPVC WINDOWS & DOORS - Established 1994 (2009/2010 Award Winners)

Showroom at 10 Ewenny Road, Bridgend CF31 3HL

Open 9am - 9pm 7 days a week

*Terms & Conditions apply

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STEVE AIREY Decorating Services

Internal & External Painting, Decorating, Cov-

Fully qualified.

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D.GULLIVER First Class Painter and Decorator

Paper Hanging a Specialty

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- No Job too Small

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Mobile: 07800 652608

First Class Painter and Decorator

Certificates of Quality & Service

Call 01446 750625 M: 07980 691584

T: 01446 750625 M: 07980 691584

Interior & Exterior Work Undertaken

- Clean, Tidy & Reliable

- Insurance Work Undertaken

- uPVC Soffits, Fascias & Guttering

- Fully INSURED

01446 772702/07505 979078

Weekend calls welcome

www.nhdecorating.co.uk

JOHN CLISSETT INTERIOR & EXTERIOR PAINTING & DECORATING

FREE ESTIMATES

T: 01446 750625 M: 07980 691584

Interior & Exterior Work Undertaken

- Clean, Tidy & Reliable

- Insurance Work Undertaken

- uPVC Soffits, Fascias & Guttering

- Fully INSURED

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Cowbridge • Mobile: 07973 628842

e-mail: cdc137@hotmail.com

Driving Tuition

LANEWISE DRIVING SCHOOL

First 3 hrs from £27.00

First 10 hrs from £110

For Total Beginners

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07798 501267

D&R
DRIVING SERVICES LTD
FOR ALL YOUR PROPERTY REPAIRS

- UPVC Windows and Doors & Garage Door Repairs and Installations.
- Windows Misted Up?
- Broken Locks/handles/ hinges replaced

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07939 475736

PAUL'S L School of Motoring

Take the stress out of learning to drive ..

Give Paul a call!

Beginners courses available

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Driving Tuition

Cats Eyes Driving School Ltd

- Lessons from £5.00
- Learn from 14 years of age
- Trailer Towing Training
- Instructor Training

0800 0280 406

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MORE ELECTRICALS ON NEXT PAGE

Electrical Services

LAING Electrical Services

DOMESTIC, COMMERCIAL, ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS

Fire Alarms

Design, Installation, Maintenance

N.I.C.E.I.C. Approved

Competitive prices

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Domestic Installer Scheme

Free Quotations

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Owen Electrical

All Domestic Electrical Work

- Extra Sockets/Lighting

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- Free Quotations

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01446 711525

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- Emergency Call-outs

- Free Quotations

- Certification, Inspection & Testing

- Installations including: Rewires, Showers, Cookers, Sockets & Lighting

- Commercial & Domestic

- NO JOB TOO SMALL

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REPAIRS

Washing Machines Electric Cookers, Tumble Driers, etc

Repaired in your own home

Freephone 0800 2984518

Barry 744117



DON'T DO IT YOURSELF

*Call a professional
From our A-Z list*

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T.R.S. REPAIR SHOP

Domestic Appliance Repairs & Spares
Refurbished Appliances On Sale

Repairs and spares for

- WASHING MACHINES
- COOKERS
- TUMBLE DRYERS
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- VACUUM CLEANERS

All makes including
HOTPOINT - CREDA -
CANDY - HOOVER -
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Freephone
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Open 6 days a week Monday - Friday
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R.M.P. electrical services **NICEIC DOMESTIC INSTALLER**

ALL ELECTRICAL WORK CARRIED OUT
Outdoor Power & Lighting - New Build - Rewires
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ALL WORK FULLY INSURED & GUARANTEED

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Washing Machines,
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Specialist repairs in TV,
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Installations, tuning
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The Maintenance Team

- Carpentry • Decorating • Electrical • Fencing
- Gardening • Jet Washing • Masonry • Painting
- Plastering • Plumbing • Rubbish Removal
- Tiling • Tree Surgery • Window Cleaning

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If you need someone who is reliable, professional
and can do the work at a sensible price:

Call Gareth: 01446 794134 (Office)
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HGS

Property Maintenance

- Carpentry • Doors & Skirtings
 - Laminate Floors
 - Fence & Decking • Flat Pack Assembly • Gutters & Fascias
- FREE QUOTES

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Home & Garden Care

Electrical • Plumbing
Carpentry • Trees
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No job too small, free
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Prices from £15.

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Quality Plastering
Service

No job too small

FREE QUOTES

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All aspects of plastering,
also building and
maintenance work
undertaken.

Call now for free quote.

Tel. 07915 390029

Cowbridge & Vale PLASTERERS

All Interior and
Exterior work
Free Quotes

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Green Future LANDSCAPES

Grass Cutting, Hedge Trimming, Patios, Shrub Planting and
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LAWN MOWERS - RIDE-ONS - CHAINSAWS
STRIMMERS AND GARDEN ACCESSORIES
Most makes serviced and repaired
EXCUSES NEVER ACCEPTED

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LANDSCAPING
SERVICES

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ALL WORK GUARANTEED
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Fully insured, excellent references
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LANDSCAPES

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• Crown Reductions
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FOR SALE:
SEASONED FIREWOOD

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and PROPERTY
MAINTENANCE

Grass Cutting, Weeding
Shrubs & Hedges Trimmed,
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Gutters & Facias Cleaned
Power Washing
• Free Estimates
• Unbeatable Prices
• Reliable Family Team

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Complete Garden Services

FENCING • DECKING • TREES FELLED, HEDGES
AND LAWNS • WALLS, PATHS AND PATIOS

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**BRIDGE VALE
TREE SERVICES**

Specialists in
Large/Dangerous Trees
FELLING, PRUNING, CROWN
REDUCTION, THINNING OUT
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HIGHLY QUALIFIED/INSURED
COMMERCIAL OR DOMESTIC

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• FREE QUOTES •

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BERRIDGE MAINTENANCE &
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- Upvc Guttering/Fascias
- Chimney Repairs
- Approved EPDM
flat roof installer
- (20 years guarantee)
- WE ARE QUALIFIED,
RELIABLE AND LOCAL!
- Blocked gutters
cleared & repaired
- Patios etc jet
washed
- Exterior painting

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JMC Ryan & Son
Roofing Services

EST 2003
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Free Estimates
Slating and Tiling

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The garage door specialists

All types of doors
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Over 15 years experience.
Same day repairs.

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We cover all aspects of roofing
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- FREE QUOTATIONS

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Nice Man Cheap Van

- REMOVALS
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- CLEARANCE
- Best Prices
- Luton van with tail lift
- Tel: 07570 931487
- Keeping Wales on the move

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Covering all areas

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SAMEDAY4U**All waste Removal**

- * Garden/Household
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- * Housing Association
- * Sheds/Attics
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Fully Licensed

Waste Carrier (CBJP3897BX)

Discount ONLY on hardcore skips

WASTE COLLECTIONS ALSO AVAILABLE**LOCAL BARRY SKIP COMPANY**

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INSTALL SKIP HIRE LTD**Mini, Midi & Large Builders**

Delivered and Collected

Fully Licensed Waste Carrier (CBJP3897BX)

Discount ONLY on hardcore skips

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Professional, Friendly & Reliable Service

01446 796582 / 07854 168499

www.bonnytiler.co.uk

**Kitchens****Tuition****Fit it**

- Bathroom
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Call for a free quote

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Qualified & experienced teacher offering tuition of English, French and Spanish to both children and adults (beginners up to A-Level).

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Logs are delivered in the big bags

Use straight out of the bag

Call PREMIER TURF

Phone 01656 784194

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**Lost & Found****MISSING CAT**

Since December 19, 2010

BERTIE

Smoothed haired black cat with white markings on chin, bib and paws.

Tel 01656 645476

LOST

Cochychurch/Cowbridge

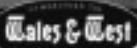
Thin Gold Bangle

with hinge and 2 small clear stones

Tel 01446 772602

SUTTONS Auto Salvage

Up to £150 paid on collection, for scrap, MOT failures, and tax expired vehicles. Also body shells and scrap metals collected. No wheels, no problem.

Tel: 029 2059 7887
07971 648596**Situations Vacant****Providing Quality Homes, Throughout Wales**

Wales & West Housing Association is an innovative and dynamic organisation that empowers its staff to drive the business forward and to add real value to the organisation. It owns over 9,000 properties, investing housing and communities' needs across Wales.

SCHEME MANAGER, BYRON COURT (RESIDENTIAL)**LLANTWIT MAJOR****20 HOURS PER WEEK****SALARY RANGE: £18,461 - £20,259 P.A. (PRO RATA)**To apply, visit the Current Jobs Available section on our website: www.westa.org.uk

Closing date for applications Friday, 28 January 2011

Wales & West Housing Association is committed to equality of opportunity in all our work. We welcome applications from all sections of the community, especially people from ethnic minorities and people with disabilities who are under represented in our workforce. We ensure that any disabled person who meets the minimum criteria for the post will be offered an interview. Charitable Industrial & Provident Society

**Vacancies for LEA Governors**

Applications are invited from those wishing to be considered by the appropriate Advisory Panel for the current Governor vacancies. The Code of Practice on LEA-School Relations states that LEA governors should be appointed on the basis of the skills and experience that they could bring to a school's governing body and the Council's appointment process reflects this requirement as well as the following criteria. Governing bodies need people who:

- are committed to regular attendance at meetings (usually at least six per academic year);
- have a genuine desire to help improve school standards in partnership with the staff;
- have an interest in and knowledge of the community that the school serves;
- have a knowledge of modern education issues; and
- are committed to attend governor training courses provided by the LEA to update their skills and knowledge to enhance their ability and effectiveness as a governor.

Currently there are vacancies at the following schools:-

Albert Primary

All Saints C of E Primary

Ashgrove School, Barry Comprehensive,

Barry Island Primary School,

Cadoxton Primary School, Cogan Primary School,

Colcot Primary School, Dinas Powys Infant School,

Eglwysilan Primary School, Gwent C of E Primary,

Llanilltud Fawr Primary School, Llanvihangel Crucorney Primary School,

Pendoylan C of E Primary School,

Victoria Primary School,

Wick & Maerross C of E Primary

Y Boni Faeri Primary School, Ysgol Ewyr Delyn,

Ysgol Pen y Garth, Ysgol St Cwrt

Please note that the meetings of Welsh Medium Schools are not all conducted in Welsh, and that where they are, translation facilities are provided.

If you feel that you can fulfil the above criteria and are interested in being considered as an LEA governor of one of the above schools please contact Jeremy Morgan on 01446 799108 (direct line) for an application form. Closing date for the receipt of completed application forms is no later than midday on Thursday 3 February 2011.

Wanted**After School Club Leader**

Level 2/3 childcare qualification.
5 evenings a week
3.15 - 5.30pm.

Call: 07891 863076
for more information**THE BUSH INN**

St. Hilary

requires

BAR & KITCHEN STAFFExperience and personality a must!
Please apply with CV to

bushinn@btinternet.com

THE RED LION, BONVILSTON**CHEF Required**

Experience essential.

Own transport necessary.

For further information,
ring 07764 220893**Property****PRIVATE SECTOR LEASING SCHEME
HAFOD HOUSING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
FOUNDATION HOUSING****& THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL**

We are looking for private landlords of 1 bed self contained flats interested in leasing properties to Hafod Housing for up to 3 years. We offer hassle-free tenancy and voids management by the managing agent Foundation Housing, with a rent guarantee and we also carry out repairs.

If you are interested visit our websites on www.fhts.org.uk or contact Diana Turner at Foundation Housing on 02920 815606 / diana.turner@fhts.org.uk

TO LET**BARRY ISLAND**

Luxury one bedroom loft style apartment within easy access of beach and parks. Sea views.

Fully furnished. Secure parking. Entry phone system. No DSS.

Over 26 only.

£425pcm

Tel: 07912 138342

TO LET**BARRY WEST END**

Two bedroom first floor flat within easy reach of all amenities.

Furnished. Good sized double bedrooms.

Phone entry system, car parking.

Over 26 only, no DSS.

£495pcm

Tel: 07912 138342

Small Starter Industrial Units For Rent

Barry area.

Three available.

Tel: 01446 721168 or 07813 134123

Reasonable rates

ST ATHAN

New 3/4 Bed Det Houses from £195,000

10% PX - up or down

Example: Yours £250,000

Ours £200,000

You get £50,000 cash

Tel: 07676 300154 or 07792 479418

TO LET**3 Bedroom Terraced Property****BARRY WEST END**

£575pcm

Bond & references required.

Tel: 07966 467259

Motors For Sale**Ford Fiesta 1.6 Zetec S 2002**

Metallic Blue, long tax & MOT, nice looking car.

£1,345 ono

07824 900568

07876 523441

New Shop-Rider SCOOTER

Fully charged - ready to go.

£300

01656 890489

HELPING YOU SAVE MONEY...**SELL YOUR CAR**

Reduced by £10 (Was £25)

NOW ONLY £15 + VAT

For 4 weeks advertising delivered to more than 43,000 homes.

HOW?

Simply call 01446 774484 today

with your credit card details

or make cheques payable to: The GEM,

Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

(This offer is open to private advertisers only)

All MoT Failures and No Tax**£100 to £1,000**

Collect (any distance).

02920 598762**07816 172933****SCRAP CARS BOUGHT FOR CASH**

Plus any scrap metal, washing machines, etc. collected.

01446 402765**07540 117474****A&L SCRAP METALS****WE BUY:**

- COPPER
- BRASS
- LEAD
- STAINLESS
- ALUMINIUM
- WIRE & CABLE Etc.

Cash Paid £££££

Up to £4.20 per kilo given for Copper

TURN YOUR OLD METAL INTO CASH

CALL: 01446 701707

Deadline for Motor Cars is 12 noon on Tuesday

GEM Family Notices

Family Notices

FERRER Vyvyan John

Peacefully on December 26th at his home in Barry after a long illness, Vyv aged 82 years (Retired Physics Teacher, Barry Comprehensive).

Beloved husband of Valerie, a loving father, father in law, grandfather and great grandfather.

Resting the private funeral home of W. Spickett & Son, 181 Court Road, Barry until the funeral on Tuesday January 18th. Service and committal at 3.45 p.m. in the chapel at Croychurch Crematorium, Bridgend (where friends please meet).

Family flowers only, donations if desired may be sent to Cancer Research (Wales) Velindre Hospital, Whitchurch, Cardiff CF4 2TL.

JOAN LESLEY JONES (Les)

Very suddenly on January 4th at home Lesley passed away, she was a lovely mother to Linda and Paul, and a proud grandmother to Sophie, Jenny, William, Oliver, Celyn and Charlie.

She will be sadly missed and always loved.

Funeral at Croychurch Crematorium, Bridgend on Friday 21st January at 1.15pm.

WALLIS

Peter Ransome D'Arcy

Peacefully on 3 January 2011, aged 87. Much loved and missed. Mass at Our Lady & St Illtyd Church, Llantwit Major 19 January 10.30am, then burial at Bodmin New Cemetery 20 January, 2pm. Family flowers only. Donations please to British Heart Foundation. All enquiries to W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major.

DANIELS

Beverley

Sons Mike and Jeff and mother Moira wish to thank family, friends, neighbours and work colleagues for attending Beverley's funeral and for the many messages of sympathy that we have received. Special thanks to the district nurses for the wonderful care that they provided. Also to Linda, Delyth and Rhian for their loving words spoken at the service. All donations made to the Velindrie Trust were greatly appreciated.

JANET LEGG

The Mayor, Cllr Len Taylor, expresses his thanks for the messages of sympathy he has received following the death of the Mayores, Mrs Janet Legg (The GEM, January 6, 2011).

On behalf of Janet's daughter Claire, son Russell and all the family, he also sends thanks for the many condolences they received, for the support at the funeral service celebrating Janet's life, and for the donations to Leukaemia Research.

JENKINS Gladys

Widow of Bill, formerly of Pontalun Close, Barry. Passed away peacefully on January 7, aged 104. Will be missed by all who knew and loved her. Funeral at Croesycillog Crematorium, Cwmbran, January 25 at 3.45pm. Family flowers.

FARMAN Thomas K

31/07/25 - 14/01/09

*My Life goes on without you
But nothing is the same
I have to hide my heartache
When someone speaks your name*
Your Dearly Loving Wife, Gwyneth

Thank You

A heartfelt Davies thank you...

Julian, Della, Simon and Tom Davies would like to say a very big 'thank you' to Mo, Miz and the team at The Raj Kinara, Rhoose, for making their 25th wedding anniversary such a special evening.

As always, the service and the food were exquisite and your efforts were very much appreciated.

GRAY

After a short illness, Paul of Llantwit Major. Dearly loved husband of the late Lorna, and loving father to Anne. He will be sadly missed by family and friends alike. Funeral service on Friday, 28th January, 2011 in St Cadocs Church, Llancarfan at 10.15am followed by cremation at Croychurch Crematorium at 11.30am.

Family flowers only, donations may be made to the Royal British Legion (cheques only) c/o the Funeral Director, W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major.

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Mum & Dad
xxx

Anniversaries

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Public Notices

VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

LEGAL, PUBLIC PROTECTION & HOUSING SERVICES

MARRIAGE ACT 1994 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

Take notice that the above department has received the following application under the above Act from Sir Brooke Boothroyd for Fonmon Castle, Fonmon, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3ZB to be a premises approved as a venue for Marriage and Civil Partnership Ceremonies.

This application and associated plans are available for public inspection between 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m., Monday to Friday at the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU.

Any person wishing to object to the grant of this approval should write to the above address giving reasons for their objection within 21 days of the date of publication of this notice.

Peter H Evans
Director of Legal, Public Protection & Housing Services



CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

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DEDDF PRIODAS 1994 A DEDDF PARTNERIAETH SIFIL 2004

Hysbysir dimw hyn fod yr ardan a enwir uchod wedi derbyn cais o dan y Ddedd Ffwrdd gan Syr Brooke Boothroyd ar gyfer Castell Rhel-y-mwn, Y Barri, Bro Morgannwg CF62 3ZB. I fod yn sylle cymeradwy ar gyfer cynnal Benoriau Priodas a Phartneriaeth Sifil.

Gall aelodau'r cyhoedd weld manylion y cais a'r cynlluniau cywylledig rhwng 9.00a.m. - 4.00p.m. ddydd Llun i ddydd Gwener yn y Seryddiadd Dinesig, Heol Holton, Y Barri CF63 4RU.

Os ydych chi'n dynuno gwirthwnebu'r cais hwn, dylech arof gwirthwnebiaid yng Nghymru i'r cyhoedd uchod cyn per 21 diwrnod ar ôl cyhoeddwr hysbysol hwn.

Peter H Evans
Cyfarwyddwr Gwaithaethau Cyfrithiol, Amddiffyn y Cyhoedd a Thai

LLANTWIT MAJOR WI

Branch catches up on the news

THE first meeting of 2011 was a happy occasion when members were able to meet after the long break to catch up with all the news.

President Eira opened the meeting by wishing everyone a happy and healthy 2011. She apologised for cancelling the December meeting because of the ice and snow; it would have been irresponsible to put members at risk of falling.

Because the meeting was to be followed by a '12th night party', the correspondence and courses were quickly mentioned and put out to be read by interested members.

There was a discussion of the resolutions to be sent in for the 2011 NFWI AGM. It was a difficult choice to make, but

most votes were given to urge the Government to support funding of research and development of natural galantamine for the treatment of Alzheimer's type dementia.

The overall winner of the 2010 monthly competition was Alma Sterritt and the overall winner of the 'bloom of the month' competition was Julia Jenkins.

The party followed with a light-hearted quiz and bingo, while the party food was being prepared. May Davies thanked the committee for all their hard work and the tasty food.

The next meeting will be on February 3 with a talk on the Tiller Girls by Pat Stewart. The competition will be a decorated fan and the stall, unwanted jewellery. New members will be warmly welcomed.

Minister opens dementia clinic

Health Minister Edwina Hart AM on Monday officially opened a new mental health unit at Glanrhdy Hospital, Bridgend.

An Assembly spokesman explained that Angelton Clinic is one element of the plan to modernise mental health services in Bridgend, providing 42 beds for older people with dementia on the Glanrhdy Hospital site.

It has been designed to provide greater privacy and dignity for patients and their families.

Accommodation includes private bedrooms with en-suite facilities, shared spaces (living room, TV lounge, dining room) and therapeutic areas.

The clinic will replace out-dated inpatient

accommodation at Glanrhdy and Maesgwyn Hospitals. Patients will transfer to the modern, purpose-built inpatient facilities.

Mrs Hart said: "The challenge dementia poses in Wales is significant but a considerable amount of work is under way to improve dementia services. This centre is an example of the commitment shown by the NHS in Wales to deliver real change to those diagnosed with dementia and their carers."

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Action from the under-14s game

THIS week saw Cowbridge under-14s visiting Pencoed, which was a first for this group of players.

For the first five minutes Pencoed dominated possession with Cowbridge struggling to get their hands on the ball. However, good work on the floor from Jac Roberts, Sam Corkill and Cameron Roy saw the Cowbridge back line able to test their opponents.

After a series of drives from Dan Taylor, Ellis Simon and Morgan Gore the ball was fed to Rhys Bradshaw, who opened the Cowbridge account, with a conversion from Jake Griffiths adding the extras.

Bevan Howells stormed over for a try, once again converted, and Cowbridge were now in the ascendancy.

Cowbridge were camped in the Pencoed half and Bevan Howells added the third score, converted by Evan Williams.

Final score - Pencoed 21 Cowbridge 42.

Vale trainer's Wincanton winner

LLANCARFAN'S Evan Williams landed the opener (novices' hurdle handicap division one) at Wincanton on Saturday with his six-year-old bay gelding Buck Mulligan who, ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, came home eight lengths clear of the Paul Nicholls trained Round Tom.

Buck Mulligan, an 8-1 chance, was running for the first time in 265 days.

BL

As new season dawns, Harvey is ready 'to push to the limit'

TOM HARVEY has acknowledged that he still has plenty to learn as he graduates to a higher level and prepares to make his debut on the European stage in 2011.

He will nonetheless be 'pushing absolutely to the limit' in a quest to 'do some spectacular things' over the course of the year ahead.

Tom has already proven himself as one of the country's most promising young talents by storming to the British crown in the Comer Cadet class of the Super 1 Series in 2010 – as well as securing an excellent third place in the title standings of fellow national champion Formula Kart Stars (FKS). But as he now takes the step-up to KF3 as one of the very youngest drivers in the

field, the highly-rated young South Wales speed demon recognises that he has a real challenge on his hands.

With more than half as much power again at his disposal to what he has been used to before, the 13-year-old is palpably his new TonyKart mount, whose speed he describes as 'just amazing'.

Although his testing schedule hit a bit of a setback before Christmas due to illness, he has rapidly been playing catch-up, and at PF International he lapped a scant 15 hundredths of a second shy of the benchmark – and quicker than some far more experienced campaigners.

That kind of form is tremendously encouraging as Tom looks to build upon his early progress and really come out-of-the-blocks fighting at the start of the season, when the serious stuff begins.

With Williams Motorsport, the Bonvilston-based hotshot is confident he could be in no better place as he embarks upon his learning curve.

Not only does the team's reputation precede it, but having engineered Newport ace Jordan Chamberlain to European and British Championship glory in 2009, and the runner-up laurels in the World Championship in 2010, Williams clearly has a history of getting results with Welsh drivers. As omens go, there could be far worse.

"It's a team that is well-known for bringing drivers on and has an

COWBRIDGE MINI AND JUNIOR RUGBY ROUND-UP

Cowbridge under-14s earn win over Pencoed

Many thanks to all the players, parents and coaches from Pencoed, for their part in an excellent morning of rugby.

Squad: Angus James, Bevan Howells, Cameron Roy, Daniel Marshall, Daniel Taylor, Dylan Cottle, Ellis Simon, Evan Williams, Ioan Lewis, Jac Roberts, Jake Griffiths, James Guard, Morgan Gore, Oliver Reynolds, Rhys Bradshaw, Rhys Davies, Sam Corkill, Tom Coates, Tom Jose, William Davies.

Under 12s - Rumney (home)

Cowbridge entertained long standing rivals Rumney and after a hard fought and enjoyable game pulled off a well deserved win scoring three tries to their opponents nil.

Both teams settled in quickly but the heavier Rumney pack began to provide good possession for their backs. Stout defence by the home side prevented the visitors from establishing an advantage and brave

Keating, Charlie Martin and Sean Davies helped Cowbridge to weather the storm.

They opened the scoring when Harry Hopkins forced his way over the line and Cai Evans converted. For the remainder of the half the territorial battle swayed back and forth but there was no further scoring.

The second half began in a similar vein to the first, with the Rumney forwards driving hard into the opposing half but quick turn overs by the Cowbridge forwards allowed their backs to create a number of breaks.

Toff Patel, James Holder and Michael Thomas forced their way close to the Rumney line but the visitors hung on.

Cowbridge finally scored the second try that had eluded them for so long when scrum half Osian John released the ball to centre Rhys Beynon, who scored in the corner.

Cowbridge's third try soon followed and was probably their best of the

season so far. A thirty metre run by Dan Bunny led to a ruck on the left hand side of the field. The ball then travelled through seven pairs of hands before wing Harrison Stevens crossed in the right hand corner to make the game safe.

Cowbridge made a number of changes, including newcomer Will Cousins, who acquitted himself well. The game ended with Cowbridge dominating all aspects of play and well deserving of their 17 points to nil victory.

Outstanding in their pack were Duncan Ace, Ben Terry and James Waters whilst Cai Evans controlled the game well from outside half.

Under 13s - Rumney (home)

Cowbridge under-13s put in a spirited performance against Rumney RFC.

Rumney scored a converted try to take an early lead; however, the Cowbridge pack started to crank up the pressure, enabling the backs to show their attacking

Stacey enjoys boxing success



L L A N T W I T MAJOR ABC travelled to the Elthorne Sports Centre, Hanswell, London W7 on Saturday, January 8.

Stacey Dixon, the daughter of coach and matchmaker Mickey Dixon, boxed Andriana the Blunstone of Hanwell School.

The first round saw the Llantwit Major Comprehensive fifth form girl use her reach advantage to good effect.

In the second Stacey did much the same but more accurate with her blows that caught the eye of the judges at ringside.

The Hanwell boxer

realised that she was

behind on points going

into the third and final round, and started off at a fast pace. Stacey did well to keep her at bay scoring well with both hands.

At the end of the contest Stacey caught Andriana with a hard right to the head, and as the referee was just about

to administer a mandatory standing count, the final bell sounded.

The referee congratulated both young ladies on a good contest but Stacey was declared the winner by a clear points decision.

If you are interested in boxing and would like more information about our club contact Tony Meakin 01446796784 or Mikey Dixon 07970394966.

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CADOXTON TAE KWON DO'S 'GRAND CHAMPIONS' GLUT

THE Cadoxton schools of Tae Kwon Do attended the final grand prix tournament in a series of six hosted by Mal Johns of WOMAA.

Points are awarded to the first four places in all categories entered, resulting in a series grand champion at the end of the year.

The first category was the pattern sections. Thomas Haysham and Lucy Newman got the club off to a good start by taking second and third places.

Once the pattern categories were completed, the sparring categories began, with the Cadoxton school being represented in most categories.

On the day, successful in their respective categories were: **Matthew Bennett**, second in point and third in continuous sparring; **Liam Rees**, first in continuous and second in point sparring; **Bradley Halford**, first in point sparring; **Jamie Halford**, first in continuous and third in point sparring; **Morganne Gomez Jones**, first in both the point and continuous sparring; **Dominic Todd**, first in point and second in continuous sparring; **Ollie Tipple**, first in point and second in continuous sparring.

At the end, the points were added up from the previous six tournaments with the Cadoxton School finishing top overall with 15 grand champions and

nine runner up positions.

2010 WOMAA Grand champions are as follows:

Matthew Bennett, grand champion in point and continuous sparring; **Jamie Halford**, grand champion in points and continuous sparring; **Hayley Matthey**, third in point sparring; **Thomas Haysham**, first in point and first in continuous sparring; **Liam Rees**, grand champion in continuous sparring; **Thomas Haysham**, first in point and continuous sparring; **Bradley Halford**, grand champion in point sparring; **Ollie Tipple**, grand champion in point and continuous sparring; **Thomas Haysham**,

grand champion in continuous sparring, runner up in point sparring and the pattern section; **Hayley Matthey**, grand champion in point sparring; **Thomas Haysham**, grand champion in point sparring, runner up in continuous sparring and patterns; **Lucy Newman**, losing out on the last day ended up as runner up in the point and continuous sparring and pattern sections; **Bradley Halford**, grand champion in points and continuous sparring. Throughout the year, Bradley competed in a

higher category and finished as runner up.

Charlotte Sullivan, grand champion in point sparring was awarded the WOMAA competitor of the year.

Morganne Gomez Jones, grand champion in continuous sparring, was runner up in point sparring and was awarded the WOMAA student of the year.

For further information and training times phone Barry 406372 or 07811934079; see www.taeckwondoassociationeurope.co.uk.

RT



PICTURED: Matthew Bennett, Morganne Gomez Jones, Dominic Todd, Jamie Halford, Liam Rees, Bradley Halford, Charlotte Sullivan, Lucy Newman, Ollie Tipple.
Missing from the photograph are Hayley Matthey, Morgan Harrhy and Thomas Haysham.

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'Jekyll and Hyde' Llantwit Major hold their nerve for win

LLANTWIT Major Reserves maintained their position as league leaders with a real Jekyll and Hyde display.

The first half saw the Major way below par, in contrast in the second period, when they were at times unplayable.

Llantwit, playing their first game for nearly a month due to the recent inclement weather and no fixtures over the festive period, were hoping to start brightly.

This was not to be the case as Cadoxton started much more the eager of the two sides, playing some good football.

The visitors deserved-

ly took the lead after 10 minutes with a well-taken goal despite a hint of offside.

The fourth came on the hour mark, Fairchild securing his brace with a powerful drive from 20 yards out after good team play involving Bright, Thomas, Phillips, White and Grafton.

The visitors added their second with 20 minutes remaining, the full-back rifling the ball past the unexercised Callard in the Major goal.

The remainder of the first period petered out into a dour, scrappy affair with neither team creating much in the way of goal-scoring chances.

A few choice words from managers Callard and Grafton during the interval had the desired effect.

Llantwit began the second half with a vigour and desire that was lacking in the opening 45 minutes and blew their opponents away with a 15-minute spell of football that was worthy of a higher stage.

The rejuvenated Stephen Phillips notched the home teams second on 50 minutes, taking his tally to three goals in two games, the big No 9's determination was rewarded as he prodded home to start brightly.

Within minutes, Bright thumped home from the edge of the box for the fifth to get the goal his fine display warranted.

The Major saved the best until last, substitute Joel Preece scoring with a rasping drive with just five minutes remaining, again the goal coming after some superb passing and movement throughout the team.

Man of the match was awarded to Jason Fairchild, who didn't waste a single pass, battele well and scored two fine goals.

Llantwit team: D Callard 6, O Morris 6, D Major (Capt) 7, J Grahame 7, J Thomas 7, G Jennings 7, P Grafton 7, J Fairchild 8, C Bright 8, D White 7, S Phillips 7. Subs: T Howles, D Lansdown, J Preece, R Grapes.

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34th Welsh Schools Inter Schools Cross-Country Championships, Penlan, Brecon

Vale girls outshine the boys at year's last fixture

THE Vale girls outshone the boys at the last major schools' cross-country fixture of the term – the 34th Welsh Schools' Inter Schools' championships, held for the 10th year at the Penlan arena at Brecon.

On a damp afternoon, with a biting cold north east breeze, the girls gained three sets of team medals, plus an individual top three placing, while the boys went away empty-handed.

In the opening event of the six race programme – for under-13 girls in years 7 and 8 – Cowbridge year-7 Seren Allin underlined her fitness and confidence level by tracking the runaway winner, Rosa Yates (Brynteg, year-8), to take third place in a field of nearly 100 finishers, a performance which sets her up nicely for the major competitions after Christmas.

Backing Seren were three year-8 pupils, Rebecca Thomas (24th), Ela Emry (38th) and Brooke Langdon-Cryer (65th), with the team score of 130 proving good enough to take second place medals.

In addition to the Cowbridge contingent, it was a delight to see a significant Stanwell squad taking part, with year-8 Ana Mirza-Davies (23rd) leading her A squad to fourth place.

There was an unexpected outcome in the third race – for girls in years 9 and 10. Year-10 Megan Osborne (Llantwit) has always been in control of her Cardiff and the Vale Schools rivals and teammates in age group races in the past but here, in a top quality field, she was knocked off top spot by Kate Coker (Stanwell, year-9).

Kate had a real confidence-boosting run to finish fourth with Megan, in seventh place, gaining some compensation by leading the Llantwit team – Erin Hayes (17th), Lucy Tarrant (19th) and Ellie Atkinson (53rd) – to the second place medals. Both Kate and Megan will be looking for even better performances in the second half of the winter cross-country pro-



'It's freezing – four Cowbridge girls prepare for the under-13 start.'

In the senior girls' race, year-12 Bethan Daw was the leading Vale finisher, taking a very creditable eighth place.

2009 was the first time in 10 years that Cowbridge had failed to take gold team medals in at least one age group at this event. After that blip, the Vale school was back to winning ways thanks to its year-11 team squad in the penultimate race of the day – for senior girls.

Although the first scorer to finish – Fiona Bray – was no higher than 16th, the team packed very well with Rachel Bradshaw (20th), Katie Wynne (22nd) and Bethan Allman (25th) chalking up a winning score of 83 points.

The top performance by a Vale boy came from Rian Thomas in the under-13 race. The year-8 pupil finished a very creditable 10th in the biggest field of the day – 105 finishers – and led his team – Dewi and Huw Bennett and Alex Love – to fourth place.

Year-11 Matthew Edwards (Barry Comprehensive) had been unwell before the event, and perhaps should not have competed. To his credit, he gave it a good go in a high quality field, but had to settle for 14th place.

One of the Vale boys who should have left the event feeling happy was Dafydd George. The Bro Morgannwg year-9, at the bottom end of the age group, again underlined his potential with a fine run in the under-15 race to take 15th place against more experienced boys.

More than 400 pupils made the long journey from all corners of Wales to compete, and the chairman of the Welsh Schools association – former Llantwit PE teacher Mrs Kath Elias – has asked that special thanks should be recorded to those schools like Cowbridge, Llantwit and Stanwell, who brought scoring teams to the event.

With the pre-Christmas schools programme now completed, many of the leading Vale runners who took part at Brecon can now start preparing and training to represent Cardiff and the Vale Schools at the Schools Invitation Inter-County & Inter District match, to be held within the McCain Cardiff Cross



'Kate Coker (Stanwell, 226) and Megan Osborne (Llantwit, 466) in the under-16 girls race.'

Challenge, at Blackweir Years 9 and 10 - 3640m – on Sunday, January 16, 69 finishers: 4 Kate Coker (Stan) 13:31; 7

Results of Vale pupils: Senior boys – Rian Thomas (11-14 - 5,300m – 54 finishers: 14 Matthew Edwards (Barry) 18:11; 26 Domini Farr (Bro M) 20:01; 41 Joseff Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 20:51.

Under-16 boys – Years 10 and 11 - 4,120m – 76 finishers: 15 Dafydd George (Bro M) 15:19; 30 Elliot Richards (Stan) 16:02; 46 Tom Morgan (Cow) 16:38; 56 Ieuan Jones (Stan) 17:18; 57 Jason Sami (Cow) 17:28; 68 Liam Martin (Cow) 18:39; 73 Miles Jenkins (Cow) 19:07; 75 Chris Powell (Cow) 21:14.

Teams: 7 Cowbridge Under-14 boys – Years 7 and 8 - 2,800m 105 finishers: 10 Rian Thomas (Cow) 10:34; 22 Dewi Bennett (Cow) 10:54; 33 Alex Love (Cow) 11:21; 43 Aled George (Bro M) 11:35; 47 Spencer Robinson (Stan) 11:41; 49 Huw Bennett (Cow) 11:44; 61 Morgan Humphries (Stan) 11:53; 62 Sean Davies (Cow) 11:54; 64 Luke Jeffries (Cow) 11:55; 76 Will Gale (Stan) 12:19; 99 Nick Mackey (Stan) 13:28; 101 Lewis Campbell (Stan) 13:45; 102 Rhys Fford (Stan) 13:53.

Teams: 4 Cowbridge 11:4; 16 Stanwell 283. Senior girls – Years 11-14 - 4,120m - 41 finishers: 8 Bethan Daw St Cyres 16:56; 14 Catlin Bryant (Cathed) 17:40; 16 Fiona Bray (Cow) 17:50; 20 Rachel Bradshaw (Cow) 19:22; 22 Katie Wynne (Cow) 19:24; 25 Bethan Allman (Cow) 20:01; 29 Anthea Young (Llantwit) 20:43.

Teams: 1 Cowbridge Under-16 girls –



'Seren Allin (Cowbridge) on her way to individual bronze and team gold in the under-14 race.'

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